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PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES.

c 1st Ser. 2

SELECTED AND ARRANGED

FROM ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

IN THE OFFICE OF THE

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH,

CONFORMABLY TO ACTS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

FEBRUARY 15, 1851, & MARCH 1, 1862.

BY

SAMUEL HAZARD.

COMMENCING 1779.

VOLUME VIII.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED BY JOSEPH SEVERNS & CO.
1858.

F
146
P591
1st ser.
v. 8
1779-1781

Notice to Blair McClenachan, &c., 1779.

Sir,

A Committe of Council appointed to enquire into the sale of the Ship General Green, will, for this purpose, meet at the Library room in the state house, to morrow, at ten o'clock in the forenoon—at which time and place you are requested to attend.

Wednesday, Novr 3, 1779.*

B. McClenachan, Mat. Irwine, George Henry, Capt^{t} Montgomery.

Sec'y Matlack to Purchasers of Flour, 1779.

Philad^{a}, Novr. 3^{d}, 1779.

Gentlemen:

Your letter of the 27th of October has been read in council, and I am directed to inform you in answer to it, that the late House of Assembly having considered the subject were of opinion that the salt ought not to be delivered until the flour should be brought to the city, which opinion corresponds with the Sentiments of the Council, both these bodies being apprehensive of any disappointment on any other plan.

I am with great respect,

Your most obed^{t}, humble Servt,

T. M. Sec'y.

To Jacob Weaver, Jacob Morgan, Jacob Bishop & Mich^{l} Tendensmith Commissioners for purchasing flour in Bucks Co.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 155.

The Commissioners for Salt, to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Sir,

The Commissioners for Salt had last evening under consideration the grievous complaints they daily meet with from the Owners of the Salt, in our Possession.—They remonstrated against us severely that they have been compelled to give up their Salt, and can get no money for it.

We are somewhat affraid a stop may happen to be put to the necessary supplies of Salt for want of money, at least it will render a performance of Duty exceeding dissagreeable.

Wherefore we intreat your Excellency will please put us in the way of procuring one hundred thousand pounds (formerly ask'd for) that we may be enabled to answer demands on us for the salt already procured, which would be considerable encouragement to do our duty with alacrity and satisfaction.

I am Sir,

Your most Obed^t hum^ble Servt,

ROB^t AITKEN, Secr'y.

For Commissoners.

Directed.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of Council.

Philad^a, 5 Nov., 1779.

Petition of Elizabeth Ferguson to Council 1779.

To the Honble The Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The humble Remonstrance of Eliz^th Ferguson, of the Township of Horsham Phila^a, County gentlewoman.

Whereas your Petitioner has in two Petitions to the hon^ble House of Assembly, set forth many reasons which appeared to her to be good & cogent why her Estate should not be exposed to sale, in consequence of her Husbands Right by marriage in the Premises; and said Petitions are not rejected by the Hon^dle House, and the matter still remains in a state of Suspence—Your Petitioner humbly hopes, the Honble Supreme Executive Council will be pleased to prevent the Agents of the County aforesaid putting up the Estate to Sale, while the thing is in this undetermined State, and in so doing they will greatly oblige their anxious & perplexed Petitioner, who as in duty bound shall pray &c.*

Grame Park, Nov., 5th 1779.

* See Vol. VI., p. 617.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1779.

War Office, Nov. 5th, 1779.

e have been honored with your letter of yesterday. The Mili- Fort Fredrick were so uneasy & many of them so ungovernable as we received Information yesterday form Co^l. Rawlins,) those had not of themselves left the Post were sent Home. And as l be difficult to get a Militia Guard again & when procured they ot sufficiently to be depended upon on Acc^t of their Inconstancy easiness under anything like Discipline, it is in contemplation se a Guard for that Post of enlisted Men. Until this is done me Means taken to get a constant Guard Co^l. Rawlins desired ould not send on the Prisoners. We have wrote some time ago ov. Johnson proposing the Scheme of enlisting Men which he oves of but says he cannot do anything in it until the Meeting e Assembly which will be this Month sometime. When we hear e Measures taken to raise the Guard we will do ourselves the or to inform you & request the Militia agreeable to your Letter.

We have the Honor to be,

with the greatest Respect & Esteem,

your very obed^t Serv^ts,

RICHARD PETERS.

In Behalf of the Board.

ected,

n the Service of the United States.

His Excellency, President Reed.

Gen. Roberdeau to Pres. Reed 1779.

Philadelphia, Nov., 10, 1779.

Permit me to ask the favor of you to make my request known to Honorable Board of your Presidence, that they would be pleased day to order me payment for the ten hundred pounds of lead ivered to your order some Months ago.* The price of that article o enormous that I should blush to make a demand, but my neces- keeps equal peace with the rapid depreciation of our money & ticularly as I purpose leaving this City to morrow, dependence been had on the money in question, for my advances are insup- tably great, for my defected purpose of supplying lead to the

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 162.

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Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1779.

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In Behalf of the Board.

Directed,

On the Service of the United States.

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* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 162.

Continent, which, entirely thro default of Congress in not furnishing the necessary defences, has been entirely stoped, as the Honble the Assembly have been informed. After the most dilligent enquiry I cannot find less than six Dollars ℔ lb. demanded for lead by the quantity, a price which M^r. Peters just now informed me, the board of War was willing to give.

I shall do myself the honor of waiting on you for your Commands before I leave Town.

yours with great respect, Sir,

most Obd^t & very hum^ble serv^t

DANIEL ROBERDEAU.

P. S.—I pray you to excuse the indecency of the paper which I cannot remedy.

William Heath to Jonathan D. Sergeant, 1779.

Camp, Peeks Kill, Novr 12, 1779.

Sir,

I have been honor'd with your favor of the 1 Inst ℔r Mr. Cardill. Not thinking myself fully authorized to give directions for the apprehending and ordering to this place the deserters mention'd in your Letter, and having some doubts on my mind respecting them, I laid the matter before his Excellency Genl. Washington, and among other things represented to his Excellency "That some time in the year 1778, while I held the command in Boston, several of the soldiers under the convention of Saratoga, practised deceptions on the recruiting officers in and about that place (Boston) by dressing themselves in Sailors habits and otherwise, Solemnly protesting that they had not the least connexion with the convention Troops. In the practice of these arts many of them enlisted, received their Bounties, Cloathing, arms, &c., and deserted. With respect to Golding & Gaffney—a deserter from Prospect Hill reported that he apprehended they were in Boston as Spies & were taking drafts of the place, that one of them (Golding) had been seen at Prospect Hill after he deserted talking with a Captain England of the 47 Reg^t, to which he (Golding) belonged. On this, I sent for them, they were brought before me, appeared dress'd like Gentlemen of fashion & fortune. I interrogated them closely, they acknowledged to have enlisted in our service and that they had done it from principle, absolutely denied ever having any design of taking any survey or plan of the place or works, and as to Golding's venturing back to the Hill after he deserted, he once did it, but Capt England had

Resolution of Assembly, 1779.

In General Assembly, Novr 12th, 1779.

The Committee appointed to confer with Council on the subject of Capt Irwin's Petition made their report, whereupon

Resolved, That the whole matter be referred to Council.

Extract from the Minutes.

THOMAS PAINE,
Clerk of the Genl Assembly.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1779.

In Council,
Philad^a, November 13th, 1779.

Gent.,

The inclosed Return has been made to us with an Expectation that the Officers should draw the Benefits of the Provision we have made for the Officers of the Line. But the more liberal the Provision the more necessary it is that it should be distributed with Œconomy & Prudence—We cannot think of saddling the State with the Support of Officers who have little more than nominal Commands—but at the same Time are willing to provide for them upon a Scale consistent with the publick Service. If therefore the Men would inlist for the War, & the whole could be thrown into one Company & annexed to the Line of the State it would be in our Power as well as Inclination to provide for them, & the Supernumerary Officers might be disposed of as in other Cases. Otherwise we shall be obliged to leave them to the publick at large.

I am Gent.,

with due Respect,

your obed. Hble. Serv.,

J. REED.*

* J. Reed was re-elected President Nov. 11,—and Wm. Moore Vice President. See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 163.

Delegates in Congress to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Monday, Nov. 15th, 1779.

Sir,

The Delegates of this State have the Honour to transmit the enclosed Resolution of Congress, & beg your Excellency will be pleased to lay the same before the Honble the supreme executive Council. We have the Honour to be, with the highest Respect,*

your Excellency's

most obedient &

very humble servants,

JAMES SEARLE,
FRED'K MUHLENBERG,
WM. SHIPPEN.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pensilvania.

Col. Jacob Stroud to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Lower Smithfield, November the 16th, 1779.

Honoured Gentlemen.

I wonce More Take the liburty to trouble your honours with a small state of a fairs of this battalion Concerning the pay of the men that has been in service. I delivered your Letter that you sent with me to the pay master and he told me he would Come up and pay the men in a few days, but he has delayed. Som of the Capt^ns has spent duble Their pay going from time to time after the pay master, and Cant get the money, I have Called on the pay master several Times myself with som of the pay Roles, & he still promises very fair that he will Come up in a short Time but dont, Some of the men has been out in Service Last winter a year agoe and Lies out of theire money yet, and they Complain extreemly of their want of their money and of its Depresuating so much that at the Time they Get there money they Cannot get one Bushel of wheat for their

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 170, 173, reception of Chevalier De La Luzerne, Minister Plenipotentiary.

Two Months pay. I find there is nothing gives the Malitia More Spirit than to pay them as Soon as they Done there Tower of Duty and the Calling the fines as soon as they are due it gives the brave men that turn out Compleat Satisfaction, but there is som men in my Battallion thinks there wont be any fines Demanded of them for not going into Service last Sumer, which I hope wont be the Case for if it should it would distroy all disciplin in the battallion, and if wee should be a Larmed I shall not be able to Command any men to venture there lives a gainst the Savage.

I am gentlemen,

your very umble servt,

JACOB STROUD,

Coll of the 6 R. N. C. M.

Pres. Reed to Gov. Rodney of Del., 1779.

Philadª, Novr 16th, 1779.

Sir,

The very alarming Prospects which present themselves to publick View with Respect to supplying the Army with Provisions will I trust make any Apology unnecessary for troubling your Excellcy on this Occasion. Notwithstanding the Importunity of the trading Interest in which the Views of many of the Farmers coincide the Sense of the Legislature of this State has steadily been to prohibit the Exportation of Provisions, & we have on all Occasions exerted ourselves to have this wholesome Regulation observed. I need not enumerate the other temporary Expedients which have been adopted for the Reduction of Prices in which the Goodness of Intentions were sufficiently demonstrated whatever Arguments may be offered against them founded on commercial Wisdom or Propriety. These being removed or rather having ceased Prices have not only increased very rapidly but there is a general Indifference almost amounting to Disinclination to sell even those Commodities most necessary for the Army. The Commissaries seem to apprehend that no inconsiderable clandestine Trade is carried on in Provisions which mutual Vigilance in the three States on the Delaware & Chesapeak would do much to correct. We have therefore form'd new Regulations added Penalties & are resolv'd to stop the pernicious Practice while the publick Necessities continue, but unless your State concur with us, such is the powerful Tone of private Interest that we fear our exertions will prove in a great Degree ineffectual for the great Purpose in view. A Limitation of Prices not having been deemed proper in Maryland their Example was followed by this State, but the inordinate Desires

of the Holders of Provisions soon raised them up to such a Height that we thought it best to suspend the Purchases of this State by the publick Commissary, which seemed the more necessary as New Jersey & New York having limited the Price of Wheat to 20 Dollars ℔ Bush[l] while our Commiss[s] were left to give curr[t] Prices reach'd £15. We farther hop'd that an Indifference of Purchase would give an Alarm favourable to the Reduction of Prices of this we cannot yet judge, but I beg Leave to assure your Excell[y] that every Thing will be done in this State as well to accomplish this desirable Purpose as to produce effectual Supplies proportional to the Ability of the State. Col. Blaine whose Assiduity in Business is truly laudable having requested these Observations from me as supposing they might be of some publick Use I could not refuse him, & beg Leave to add that I am with much

Respect & Regard.*

Mr. Holker to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Philadelphia, Nov[r] y[e] 16th, 1779.

Sir,

The application made to me by the chairman of the honorable y[e] Committee of Congress for the Q. M. & C. D. for the flour which your Excellency & the assembly of pensilvania have directed by the most generous and efficacious measures to be Collected for the supply of his Majesty's Navy in america, being founded on the urgent necessities of the army, I am under the obligation of requesting that you'll please to give your directions to the Agent of the State So as he may deliver the flour he may have on hand appropriated for the use above mentioned. Col. Blaine is to lodge in M[r] Turnbull's hands the Value of the flour he takes, so as to facilitate the prosecution of the Measures adopted on this occasion imagining that your interference might be deemed unnecessary in this Instance. I have taken the Liberty of delivering M[r] Chaloner an Order for said flour on M[r] Turnbull, & have notified my entire consent to the delivery of what he has on hand, though I expect every minute to be called upon for supplies of this kind, & though I am informed that the Ships now arrived in the Chesapeak are in great distress for provisions. I hope your Excellency will approve of my application to y[e] agent of the State and that you'll be persuaded of the desire, which Constantly animates my actions, of giving every Satisfaction

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 171.

in my power & of acknowledging your Continued exertions to procure Supplies for the Royal Navy.

I Remain with Respect
Your Excellency's
most obedient & Very
humble servant,
HOLKER.

Directed,
His Excellency, Joseph Reed President of the State.

Secy. Matlack to Col. A. Boyd, 1779.

Philad^a., Novr 16, 1779.

Sir,

By the death of Jesse Jordan the suit against General Arnold is abated—And, it is become necessary that his Executors, or Administrators should give orders to the Attorney Genl to re-commence the suit—If he has not made a will, nor any person yet administered to his estate Letters of Administration ought to be immediately taken out by some suitable person and orders sent by him to the Attorney Genl to proceed in the suit for the recovery of the money due for the waggons employed by him.—You will please to take care of this business & write to me upon it as soon as may be.

I am &c.
Yours,
T. M. Sec^y.

Directed.
To Col. A. Boyd.

Col. Lewis Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Sir,

Three deserters from the Yagers stationd at Courtlands house near kings bridge which place they left the 8^d Instant, say that corps consists of 700 men, having received 250 recruits about 8 weeks since. Desertion very great from that Corps whose situation gives them frequent opportunities which the troops on the island are debarred from. No other troops are stationed out of the Island. Kings bridge is not broken down but a draw bridge is made over

one of the arches which is drawn up at night. The troops on the island are hutting themselves and the Yagers are to winter in fort Washington. A detachment from every reg^t was ordered for embarkation about 6 weeks since, but were not embarked when they came off. They did not hear of any news being arrived from Georgia. Soon after one of these men left the English he was strictly examined by Col^o Armand about the Patroles sent out by the English & what roads they generally took.

Permit me to assure you that I am with respect

Your excellencies

most Obedient & Humble Serv.

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Novem^r 17th, 1779.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed President of State.

Eph. Blaine to President Reed, 1779.

[Philad^a, 18 November, 1779.

May it Please Your Excellency,

The immediate necessity I am under for want of Salt to answer the public Demands induces me to make application to your Excellency & Council, to obtain an Order upon the Commissioners for five or six hundred Bushels of what you have in Store to be either replaced or paid for as you may direct—your compliance will serve the public & greatly oblige me.

I have the Honor to be

Your Excellencys

Most Obed^t

most Hble Serv.,

EPH. BLAINE, D. C. G.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire Present.

Resolution of Assembly, 1779.

In Assembly, Novr 19th, 1779.

On Motion Resolved, That the above (inclosed) Ratification* be copied and sent to the supreme Executive Council, requesting that honorable Board to transmit the same to the Government of Virginia.

Extract from the Minutes,

THOMAS PAINE,

Clerk of the Gen'l Assembly.

Indorsed,

Resolve of Gen'l Assembly, Novr 19, 1779. Boundary of Virginia. Read in Council, Novr 24, 1779.

T. M., Sec'y.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council.

Archibald McClean to C. J. McKean, 1779.

Honble Sir,

By Mr. Bradford I some Time past wrote to your Honour and therein inclosed the Copy of Philip Sholl's Deposition, relative to the too strongly suspected Conduct of Robert Irwin, of Hanover Town, late an assistant Quarter Master General of Purchases, and also an Assistant Commissary of Issues of that Place, and Charged with the Sequestration of Publick Stores, and the Appropriation thereof to his own use.

I had at the Time of the taking the Deposition, Ordered my Informant, (and he was the Person who deposed) to take the Key of the remaining Stores (As they lay in an Out House and only rented for that purpose) and keep it lest there should be a farther Embezzlement;—Irwin upon being thus denied Access hath since come here and demanded a Copy of the Charges against him, and which I furnished him with. He demanded in a sneering Way my Authority for ordering the Keys under which (as he called it) his Property was kept? This put me on thinking a little, and as the late Law against Engrossing was at that Time in my Possession, and I also

* Not found on file and not noticed in Minutes of this date; but see Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 177—and proclamation, ib., 218.

had it by me at the Time when I gave the verbal Order for the detaining of the Key, I immediately drew a Warrant agreeable to the 16th Section of the said Law and hath in Pursuance thereof Seized in the Stores Occupied by him 17 Barrels of Flour, being all now remaining there, and also 110 Bushels of Rye and Two Barrels of Salt, All of which he confidently saith is his own Property, notwithstanding I as verily believe the Whole to be the Property of the Continent committed to his Care, and for which he hath not clearly accounted.—And as I verily believed that the whole is Continental Property, I was driven by Sheer Necessity to have Recourse to the before recited Act of Assembly inasmuch as he had questioned my Authority for seizing the same. And my design in Recurring to that act is only to secure the Stores in a legal manner until I farther hear from your Honour or his Excellency the President of the Council, Or until some farther Order shall be taken therein, And the same being thus secured, the Property thereof, Or in what manner, and by whom, the same was transferred to him will be the Subject of Future Enquiry.

I Rode to the Place myself and there called to my Assistance Col[s] M'Callister and Hagle and there by the Informer actually seized the Whole agreeable to the Express words of the Act.

When this was done Irwin begged for some time to lay his Accounts before us in Order to give some Satisfaction how he came by the Stores, but confessed they had been Continental Property. In this we then indulged him and on this Day he is to shew his Accounts to Mess[rs] M'Callister and Hagle (but this Step was only agreed to for the Sake of Indulgence) we alledging that we had no Power to examine or Settle, or correct any Errors of his Accounts. And as I cannot attend there this Day, the Distance being near Twenty Miles, I have requested Mr. Hagle to take the Stores into more safe Custody and take Recognizance of Irwin to appear at the next Sessions.

From all that hath hitherto appeared, we seem fully of Opinion That the Whole are publick Property, And therefore they do not simply fall under the Denomination of Engrossing, but carry a farther and much worse Charge, We pray therefore to be indulged with a Line or Two of Information & farther Direction from your Honour, or from the Council.

After begging your Honour's Excuse for the Trouble which I give you

I rest your Honour's
most obedient
Humble Servant,

ARCH[d] M'CLEAN.

P. S. I have great Reason to believe that Irwin hath settled his

Acc^t with the Purchasing Commissary General or with some of his Deputies, but hath not settled with the Com^ry General of Issues.

Philip Swartz, in this Gaol, charged with being a Spy, and acting as a Guide to the British detachment who attacked the Militia at The Crooked Billet, Philad^a C^o, & also Jehu Lefever (alias McCasky,) confined for Treasonable Practices committed in Chester County, wait for your Honour's Orders for being removed to the Respective Counties where their Offences were Committed.—Inclosed is a Letter which I rec^d from Swartz this Morning.

Directed,

The Honourable Thomas McKean, Esquire, Chief Justice of the State of Pennsylvania.

℔ Favour of Col. Miller.

Col. Rich'd McCalister to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Nov. the 19th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excellencies order of the 26th ultimo I duly received on the 4th Instant. The Militia was to March on the 8th, it appeared a Considerable Number would a Gon at that time, I sent Imeditly to Every Quarter & Gave the orders I Rec^d. I wish to finde the same spirit w^h them the Next Call. I had all the Arms put in order & am Sorey the Count Dident Appear.

There is a Matter I have long tho^t of laying before y^r Exelency—that is the arms taken this 2 or 3 years Past from the Nonasosiators, and appraised & sent out, Numbers of which never Returned, as Allso those who tuck with them there Guns & wass Apraised according to law & wass lost the law said they should be paid, but hath not Pointed out where or by whom or when they are to apply—it hath Sowered the Minds of maney, the arms wass then appraised Exceeding low, the People are dayly teasing me for pay—I am at a loss to know What Ans^r to Give the people on this subject, as they all look to me for payment.

I should be Grately Oblidge by y^r Exelencies orders on this matter & beg leave to subscribe myself & that with all Due Respect, y^r Exelen most obed^t

Humble Servant,

R^d M'CALISTER.

The Memorial of Col. Moses Hazen to Genl. Washington, 1779.

To his Excellency George Washington, Esqr, General and Commander in Chief of the American Army, &c., &c., &c.

Humbly sheweth,

That the Canadian Regiment your Excellency's Memorialist has the Honour to Command, was by a Resolution of Congress of the 20th of January, 1776, ordered to be raised in Canada for one year or during the then present Disputes; to compose four Battalions of Two Hundred and Fifty Men each, as will, by said Resolution of Congress, more fully appear.

That Four Hundred and Seventy-seven Men only were inlisted for the Term of the War, mustered and carried into Service. The Want of Money to pay the Bounty ordered prevented the Regiment from being completely filled up at that Time, and in that Country.

That a Part of the Officers and Men raised in Canada retreated with Genl. Sullivan's Army on the 17th of June, 1776, from that Country; and that on the 23^d of October, in the same year, the Hon. Continental Congress was pleased to order that the said Regiment should remain on the Original Establishment thereof, and be recruited to its Original Complement in any of the Thirteen United States, as the said Regiment did not belong to any particular State, nor was there any Additional Expense in the Mode of Officering the same.

That by the Alacrity and great Attention of the Recruiting Officers, Seven Hundred and Twenty Men were brought into the Field on the opening of the Campaign in the year 1777.

That this Regiment has been employed on hard Services in the Course of this Contest; a Part of it was at the Blockade and Assault of Quebec; the Regiment was with Genl. Sullivan in the Action of Staten Island, of the 22^d of August, 1777; at Brandywine the 11th of September, and Germantown the 4th of October following: In all which it has acquitted itself with Honour, and was at the last mentioned Engagement amongst the Troops that were rewarded with your Excellency's Public Thanks.

That in the three several last-mentioned Engagements were killed, wounded and taken Prisoners fifteen Commissioned Officers and One Hundred and Thirty-three Non-commissioned Officers and Private Men:—That detach'd Parties from this Regiment have frequently been in warm Skirmishes with the Enemy, which have been conducted to the Honour of the Officer who commanded, tho' attended with the Loss of many brave Men.

That on the 4th of November, 1778, the Hon. Continental Congress was pleased to order that the said Regiment should remain on

its Original Establishment, and that no new Appointments or Promotions of Officers be made therein, until further Orders of Congress.

That on the 15th of March, 1779, the Hon. Continental Congress was pleased to order Returns to be made of this Regiment, and others, setting forth the different States in which the Officers were raised, or the Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers recruited, and that the said States should have Credit for the Officers and Men so raised or recruited, as a Part of their Quotas to be kept up in the Field. This Resolution it is presumed was entered into as well to do Justice to the several States, in Point of raising their several Quotas of Men, as to leave it in their Power to take Care of and reward the Officers and Men in the same Manner as they might their own State Battalions, which however just the Intention it can never affect this Regiment, so as to do it Justice in every Part thereof; for as the Officers are raised and the Regiment recruited from North Carolina to Canada, it is impossible that the Officers and Men should have the Benefit of the several and respective State Stores, to which it seems it was intended they should have a Right to in common with their own Troops; nor have they ever received a Farthing value from any one State before or since that Resolution took Place; on the other Hand, sixteen Officers and One Hundred and eleven Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers are returned Volunteers from Canada, and otherwise belonging to no one of the Thirteen United States, consequently no Kind of Provision is or has been attempted to be made for them: However hard their Case, their Services are deserving of Notice: That the Canadian Soldiers are not inferior to any in the Regiment, in Point of Morality, Bravery, or Attachment to the Cause and Service in which they are engaged; a Proof of which, one Canadian only has deserted since the Regiment retreated out of Canada: Nine different Detachments were sent into that Country the last Summer for Intelligence, and the greater Part of the other Canadians within Sight of and not more than one Days march of their own Country, Families, Friends, Connections and Estates.—Four Hundred and Seventy-one Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers are now on the Muster Rolls and Returns, Four hundred and Sixty of which are inlisted during the War, on Twenty Dollars Bounty only; not a Man has ever received either a Town or State Bounty to the Knowledge of your Memorialist.

That neither Officer or Soldier in the Regiment has ever received a Farthing's Value of Cloathing, or other Supplies whatever, out of any State or Continental Store, otherwise than a Dividend of coarse Clothes, with the other Troops at Hartford, by Order of Genl. Gates, the whole of which did not compose an Assortment that would have made up one Regimental Coat: That under the present Hardships, and many Difficulties herein enumerated, it is impossible to expect this Regiment can continue in the service

unless some proper Provision of Cloathing for the Officers and Supplies for them and the Men, may, by some Means or other, be obtained so as to leave this Regiment on a footing with the Army.

Your Memorialist has the Pleasure to assure your Excellency, That notwithstanding the different States, Countries and Nations from which this Regiment has been raised, yet a perfect Harmony and a general Unanimity has always subsisted amongst the Officers as well as a most passive obedience cultivated among the Soldiers:—and further, your Memorialist begs Leave to assure your Excellency, that he should not do Justice to the Regiment, if he did not add on this Occasion, that he has the Honour to command as good a Corps as any in the American Army. It is hoped and really wished that the Period may not be far off when this Regiment may be adopted by their own—a fourteenth State in America.—Your Memorialist therefore humbly prays your Excellency will please to take the Case of this Regiment into Consideration, and direct or recommend to Congress a remedy by which the Officers and Soldiers may be on a footing with the Army.

That in Point of Clothing and Supplies for the Regiment your Memorialist begs Leave to propose, That the Commanding Officer, Paymaster, or some other Person, may be empowered to purchase such Articles of Clothing and Supplies, or Refreshments as are or may be furnished to the other Troops, and in like Proportion, and that they may be issued out or delivered to the Officers and Men in the same Manner as have been, now are, or may hereafter be, to other Continental Troops, at the same or like Discounts;—that the Extra Prices and Amount of all such Clothing and Supplies may be paid from Time to Time from the Military Chest;—that a particular Account may be kept of all such Issues or Deliveries, and rendered to such Persons, and as often, as may be directed, in order that the Amount of the Extra Cost of all such Goods so delivered may be by the Public a Charge against the several and respective States, as issued to the Officers and Men which they have Credit for in their several and respective Quotas; and that such a Part as may be issued and delivered to the Canadian Volunteers be a Charge against the Public at large until a final Settlement, which appears to your Memorialist the only Method by which common Justice may be done to the whole, and that all the Soldiers of the Regiment may be served at one and the same Time with such Refreshment as may be allowed them, which will naturally tend to Quiet the Minds of the Soldiers, and promote Harmony in the Regiment; for Soldiers who serve together ought to serve on one and the same footing; any Thing to the contrary has been found by Experience to be Subversive of that good Order and Military Discipline which ought to be preserved; for these Reasons, your Excellency's Memorialist was obliged to stop, by the Advice of the Officers of the Regiment, four Months Pay to the Officers raised and Soldiers inlisted from

Connecticut, and by the Legislative Body of that State ordered to be paid to them, which remains yet in the hands of the Paymaster.

Your Excellency's Memorialist will, as in

Duty bound, ever pray,

MOSES HAZEN.*

Camp, Peeks-Kill,
Nov 30th, 1779.

Copy.

CIRCULAR OF CONGRESS, 1779.

(Circular.)

Secretary's Office, Novr 20th, 1779.

Sir,

I take the liberty of transmitting you a duplicate of an act of Congress passed the 16th March, 1778,† the utility of which is apparent: And as it may be proper and necessary that you should be informed of the several acts and proceedings of Congress, I have herewith sent you a copy of their Journal from the first of January last, and shall continue to send you, from time to time, their weekly publications. On the other hand, as a communication of your acts may be advantageous, and lodging them in this office for the information of the delegates of the other States, beneficial to the union, and tend to facilitate the transmitting to posterity the rise and progress of these infant States, I take the liberty of requesting you to transmit to this office a copy of the constitution or form of government adopted by your State upon the declaration of Independence, and of all the public acts passed by your Legislature since that period. If you can add any pamphlets or documents relative to the controversy and revolution, they shall be carefully deposited and preserved, and thereby you may do an acceptable service to your posterity, and oblige, Sir,

your very humble servant,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Directed.

(On public service.)

His Excellency, The President of Pennsylvania.

Indorsement.

Read in Council Decr 3, 1779.

T. M., Sec'y.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 215.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 188,—also, Archives, Vol. VI., p. 865,—& 251 of Vol. VII.

THOMAS PAINE TO COUNCIL, 1779.

In Assembly, Novr 20th, 1779.

On Motion, Resolved, That the resolution of this House of the 18th Instant, on the proposition to be made to the State of Connecticut respecting the Claims of the two States to the land in dispute, be copied and sent to the Supreme Executive Council, requesting that Honble Board to transmit the same to the Government of Connecticut.*

Extract from the Minutes.

THOMAS PAINE,

Clerk of the General Assembly.

Directed.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, President of the Supreme Executive Council.

Indorsed.

Read in Council Novr 24, 1779.

T. M., Sec'y.

COL. DANIEL BRODHEAD TO ARCHIBALD STEEL, 1779.

Head Quarters,

Pittsburgh, Novr 22^d, 1779.

Sir,

It appearing to me to be indispensibly necessary that a Number of Troops should be thrown into the house where Edward Ward and Thomas Smallman, Esq^rs, at present dwell, to assist in defence of this post should an attack be made upon it by the Enemy, and as it will doubtless be disagreeable to them to continue in the house, where a sufficient number of soldiers are quartered for its defence; you will please to give them notice to provide other quarters if they think proper, on four days notice—I have already offered them th rooms which I occupy, and you may assure them they are still welcome to remove into them if they cannot otherwise be accommodated

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Col^o Command'g W. D^t.

To Archb^d Steel, Esq., D. Q. M. G.

Head Quarters,

Pittsburgh, Nov. 24th, 1779.

The Maryland Corps is to be stationed in the house occupied by Edward Ward and Thos Smallman, Esq^rs, for the defence of the Garrison.

A true Copy.

Jo^s L. Finley, M. B.

* Not found—See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 177.

Col. Daniel Brodhead, to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Pittsburgh Nov., 22d, 1779.

Dear Sir,

The Delaware Chiefs came here a few days ago and intend to wait upon Congress to complain of their failure of a promise that they would supply the Indians with goods but as I know their Journey would require an Escort & otherwise be attended with mush Expence, I prevailed on them to put it off until Spring. The poor wretches are quite destitute of Cloathing and unless some speedy supply is afforded them they will of necessity be compelled to join the Enemy on any terms or perish. They inform me that the Enemy at Detroit have refused to supply the Wyandots with Clothing because they have entered into a treaty of amity with us and that the Chiefs of that Nation will soon be here to see if we can furnish them. I shall be much troubled with them as well as the Delawares and I sincerely wish their wants could be relieved by the public especially as no loss could accrue where peltry is taken in Exchange for the Goods. The Delawares make great promises of joining me on a future Expedition and its highly probable I shall put them to the test before Spring.

The different staff departments here are out of money and of Credit and if they are not suddenly supplied I shall dread the consequences.

My next Letter to you will probably be wrote at a great distance from here. I expect to strike at the root of the Evil to this frontier before Spring and then will promise myself the Happiness to see you and the other Gentlemen with whom I have the Honor to be acquainted.

Give me leave to beg you will present my very respectfull Compliments to Colt. John Bayard. I requested Colt Stephen to write to him but he shook his Head I fear he thinks his Cousin has been careless about keeping up his correspondence.

With the most perfect regard and esteem

I have the Honor to be your Excellencies most obedt humble Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Directed,

His Excellency Jos. Reed Esq.

Col Matthew Smith to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Sir,

I have Just Return^d from Northumberland County and am in Good health, I hope to be at Phil^a in two weeks or less, nothing lately has happened in that Quarter; about 3 Weeks Past a Certain James Clark was killed & Scalped, it is a Matter of Doubt whether it was Done by Indians—it is my oppinion it was not, as Numbers of hunters have been out, a Great way up both Branches and not the least sign or trace of Indians since Gen. Sullivan & the army Returned. Captn, John Harris will Deliver this, he means to Apply for the Prothonotary office of that County, as his Brother is Seated in Baltimore & means to continue there, the People Complain it has not been Conducted, for the Good of the County in that family, he apply^d to me to Write with him, I wrote what I Believe will be found to be facts, if it is agreeable to Council to Give the Commission, I have not the least objection—as my Acquaintance with the family is long & intimate and I am Clear he is Capable to Do the Duty of that office.

I am with the Greatest Regard your Most
Obed^t and very hum^bl^e Servt.

Paxtang Nov. 24 1779. MATT^w SMITH.

Directed

His Excellency Jo^s Reed Esq. Pres^t of the State of Pennsylvania.
Favoure^d by Captn Harris.

Secy. Matlack to William Rowan, Sheriff, 1779.

Philadelphia, Nov. 25, 1779.

Sir,

Enclosed is a warrant for the Execution of the sentence of the court of your county on James Boyd, Henry Trout, Nath. Patton, George Flitzer and Thomas Peadly—Also a reprieve for the said George Flitzer and a pardon for Thomas Peadly.

The further determination of the Council respecting Flitzer will be communicated to you in due time; but it will be prudent in you not to execute the said Flitzer, even after the expiration of the time of his reprieve, unless you hear from them.—I give you this precaution in so very important an affair, lest a pardon may happen to be delayed by some unavoidable, or unforseen accident.

I am with due respect,
Your very humble Servant.

T. M., Secy.*

William Rowan Esq, sheriff of the county of York.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 178.

Pres. Reed, to Commissioners for Procuring Salt, 1779.

Pa Nov. 25th, 1779.

Gentn,

This being the Day appointed for the Redelivery of the Salt remaining on Hand to the several Owners, the Council request it may be done in Proportion to the Quantities delivered you. And that you will endeavour to procure an Acct, of the Charges & Expenses of all kind attending the service, which you will also send to Mr. Turnbull in order that he may be enabled to fix the Price of the Flour received for public Use.

I am also to convey to you (and I do it with great Satisfaction) the thanks, of the Council for your Care, Attention & Service in this Business.—When the love of our Country & Zeal for its Interests seems almost extinguished by Selfish Pursuits & inordinate Thirst of private Gain, it cannot but give great Pleasure to a considerate Mind to find that in a public exigence we have Resources in the Virtue & Spirit of our Citizens which our Enemies have vainly hoped would never be found again,

I am Gentn with much
Regard & Esteem,

Your Obedt Hble.

Indorsement,

To Commissioners for procuring Salt in the City & Liberties of Pa.

Capt. Jno. Paul Schott to Council, 1779.

The Honourable Council.

Gentlemen,

I am a Hessian Born, by Inclination, as well as duty bound an American I have the Honour to be a Captn in the Continental Army ever since the 6th day of November 1776. I had the Misfortune to be taken Prisoner on the 26th of June 1777, in the Battle of Short Hills, where I suffer'd the greatest Cruelty man coud Suffer. I was struck, kick'd abused and almost perished for Hunger; At that time I was offer'd one thousand pounds and a Majority in the Enemy's New Levies, but I despised their offer, and was determined to suffer death before I would betray the Cause I was Engaged in, Relying on the Country's Generosity to Reward me for my Grievanes. When I was Exchanged I got the Command of that Corps I

now Command. I made frequent application to the Honourable Board of War, to grant me the Rank of a Major, and liberty to Inlist Men and raise that Corps again to its former Strength, by which I thought to have an opportunity to take satisfaction of the Enemy in an Honourable way, for the Ill usage I received when a prisoner, which I would have done, or died in the attempt, but was always refused, having had no opportunity to Distinguish myself I was even left out of the Arrangement of the Line with the rest of the officers in this Corps. I still thought that I was entitled to the benefit of the provision made by your Honours, for the Officers and Soldiers in the line, but Sending Captn Selin to your Honours lately with a Return of the State of the Corps, you was pleas'd to write the following to the Honourable Board of War. That the more liberal the provision, the more necessary it was, that it should be Distributed with oeconomy and prudence. That your Honours could not think of Settling the States with the Support of officers who had but little more than nominal Commands, but at the same time that you was willing to provide for us on a Scale consisting with the public Service, if therefore the Men coud be Inlisted for the War, and all cou'd be thrown into one Company and annexed to the line of the State, that you was then Inclined to provide for us, and the Supernumerary Officers be disposed of as in other Cases, or be left to the publick at large, As for my own part I apply to the Honourable Major General Sullivan, B^t General Hand, Maxwell and others, under whose Command I had the Honour to serve, that I always had more than Nominal Command but leaving it Intirely to your Honours Judgment to Dispose of the Corps as you think proper, and a favourable Line from you will for ever Oblige.

Your Honours Most Obedient
and Most Humble Servt,
JOHN P. SCHOTT, Cap^tn.

Garrisson, Wyoming, Novr 26th, 1779.

Col. B. Flower to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Phila^d. 26 Nov^r, 1779.

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr.

Hon^d Sir,

I have for some time past forborne troubleing your Excellency, being unwilling to take up your time from more important matters; but now find it necessary, embolden'd by your known Benevolence and my own experience of your kind attention towards me in former Instances; I hope will plead my excuse for the present intrusion, while I Relate a few facts Relative to the Reg^t of Artillery and Artificers which I have the honor of Commanding.

On the 2^d October last* I presented to the Hon^l House of Assembly, a Memorial, praying to have my Reg^t taken in as part of the Quotas of the Troops of the State of Pensylvania, agreeable to Resolve of the Hon^l Congress of 15th March last, Copies of which I have inclosed for your Excellency's perusal, and beg leave to Refer you to the bearer Major Gortelowe for further information Relative to our Claims.

On seeing the Act of Assembly Relating to the Pensylvania Troops—again publish'd for consideration in the Packet of yesterday—by which I observe my Reg^t is still excluded, owing I presume to my Memorials not being produced and Read a second time—or that the Hon^l House have thought proper to Refer the matter to your Excellency, And the Supreme Executive Council of this State as by the last paragraph in said Act in consequence thereof, I beg your Excellency's assistance in the premises—Should any further information Relative to the said Reg^t be necessary, I shall at all times be Ready to produce them. My present Ill state of Health prevents my haveing the Honor of waiting on you in person. It would take up too much of your Excellency's time to enumerate Circumstances that justify our Claim—Suffice it to say—that this part of my Reg^t enumerated in the Rolls produced—were all raised in this State three years ago (by order of his Excellency Genl Washington) except the Recruits since, at the expence of the United States, who have paid and Cloathd them ever since, and they "are allowed by Congress the same Bounty, Cloathing and every other benefit allowed to the Continental Artillery, the Officers the same pay as other officers of eaqual Rank in the Continental Artillery" and have been taught to expect all other benefits allowed to other Troops Rais'd in this State, therefore hope we shall not be excluded, that part of my Reg^t stationed at Springfield in New England in Massachusets Bay enjoy all the benefits allowed by that State to their other Troops—the usefullness of this Corps is too well Known to Require any thing to be said in their favor here.

* See page 249 of Vol. VII. † See below.

I shall rest assured your Excellency will do us every Justice And have the Honor

to be your most Obed^t

Very Hum^l Servt,

BENJ. FLOWER, Col^o.
Artil^y & Artificers.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr President of the Supreem Executive Council &c., &c., Pres^t.

Col. B. Flower.

Memorial of B. Flower to Assembly, 1779.

To the Honorable the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pensilvania in General Assembly—the Memorial of Benjamin Flower, Colonel of the Regiment of Artillery Artificers —Humbly sheweth,

That, on the 15th March last, the Hon^l the Congress of the United States, Resolved, that the Officers, non commissioned, and Soldiers, belonging to the Corps of Light Dragoons, Artillery and Infantry, and the Corps of Artillery Artificers, commissioned and Inlisted for three Years, or during the War, not being part of the eighty-eight Battalions originally apportioned for the States, should be considered as part of the quotas of the several States to which they did or should belong as commissioned or inlisted, and credited accordingly.—That your memorialist is informed the purpose of the resolve was to procure to the corps above mentioned, the particular allowance of Cloathing, refreshments and all other benefits given, or which should be given, by the several States to their proper quotas of Troops—That your memorialist observes in the Bill now depending before your Hon. House, intitled, "An Act for the more effectual supply, and Honorable reward of the Pensylvania Troops in the service of the United States of North America"—Col. Proctor's Reg^t of Artillery (One of the Corps to which the above mentioned resolve refers)—is expressly comprehended, that the Corps of Artillery Artificers under the Command of your Memorialist, is engaged to serve during the War, (a few men excepted, who are inlisted for three years only,) and by another resolve of Congress passed the 11 Feb'y, 1778, are promised every benefit allowed by Congress to the Continental Artillery; that the Corps of Artillery artificers, from the nature of their service, are unavoidably excluded from the Honors as well as the Dangers of the

field, have yet in like manner with other Officers and Soldiers, "Sacraficed private considerations to the public good," haveing devoted their whole time to the Service of the States, for a scanty pay by no means adequate to their support, in consequence of which many have been and are much distress'd, and others involved in debt —That this Corps have chearfully borne all these inconveniences, hardships and losses, thinking themselves closely connected with the direct Military Line of the Army, subject on any emergency to take the Field, (For which they have been practised accordingly, as well in the management of Cannon as small Arms,) and intitled to the same rewards as other Officers and Soldiers faithfully serveing the United States:—and that if the Corps should now be excluded from the benefits granted by the State to the Pennsylvania Line, it will damp the Zeal of both the Officers and men in the common cause, and probably end in the resignation of the former, and discontent, neglect of duty, and desertion of the latter. Your Memorialist therefore begs leave to submit to the wisdom and justice of your Honorable House to decide whether such of the Corps of Artillery Artificers as belong to this State may not with propriety claim and be intitled to the benefits they have been taught to expect, and which are now proposed to be given, by the bill before mentioned, to the Officers and Soldiers in the Pennsylvania Line.

BENJ. FLOWER, Col. Ay. A.

2 October, 1779, Phila[a].

(Copy.)

Pres. Reed to Commissioners for Procuring Salt, 1779.

Council Chamber,

Nov. 27, 1779.

Sir,

In Answer to your letter this day respecting salt taken during the City Committee which has been laid before the Council, I am to inform you & the other Commissioners that the Redelivery can only be extended to these Persons whose Salt was received by you under the Authority of this Board. If any Salt was delivered over to you by the Committee so as to compose a Part of the Stock in your Hands & it can be ascertained such Persons would be entitled to receive a proportionate Part of the Salt remaining. But there is a material difference between the case of Persons whose Salt was taken in Pursuance of our Authority and that delivered before to any other Persons acting in any publick Line, the latter having been a voluntary Offer on the Part of the Holders of the Salt & which we should not expect they would now reclaim—whereas the other was a compulsory Measure adopted in a publick Exigence—If any Difficulty arises

which cannot be otherwise settled. The Time in which the Change was made is in this case material.

Mr. Mease has an Order from the Board on the Treasury for the full Amount of his Salt as had Mr. Fitzimons for the first Parcel.

Should there be any Persons who have received their Money Care must be taken that upon the Return of the Salt there should be a proportionate Repayment.

Indorsed,

To Mr. Robert Aitken, Sec'y to Commr^s, &c.

Col. Samuel Hunter to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Sunbury November 27th 1779.

Sir,

Yours of the 20th ult, I received informing me of What you had done in Regard of procuring some Troops for the Safety of this county, in Consequence of which the Board of War has ordered the German Regiment that was at Wyoming to this place, and desired the commanding Officer to advice with me in Stationing his troops in such manner and places as would be deemed most proper for the Protection of the Inhabitants and the security of his men. When the Col, of the Regiment and I met upon this, I found the number he had not sufficient to Garris the different posts I made mention of to him, Which I thought would give the most Effectual support and protection to the distressed Inhabitants, Was to Rebuild Fort Muney and Garrison it with one Hundred men, twenty five men at Fort Jenkins, a serjents Guard at Boslys mills on Chilisquake and another Serj^ts Guard at Titzols mills in Buffaloe Valy and the remainder where the Commanding Officer resided, as I was informed the Regiment consisted of two Hundred men but instead of that number, there was but one Hundred & twenty Effective men Exclusive of Officers, that we had but sixty men to Order out to the Frontiers, as the Commanding Officer is Resolved to keep the one Half with himself in Sunbury to Relieve the Others Monthly so that there is but forty men at Montgomerys Fort twelve miles on this side Fort Muney & twenty men at Fort Jenkins, Captain Kemplen and his company of Rangers which consists of fourteen men is stationed at Minegers place on the west Branch about seventeen miles from Sunbury, Kemplen has recruted some men lately for six months, which I would be desirous to know if its agreeable to Council he should recruts for that time.

The 5th Inst, there was one James Clark Killed and scalped up at Muney Creek (he was found the same day,) and Various are the conjectures whether he was Killed by the Savages or some of our Owen people, as no Signs of any Indians or discoverys of any known Enemy being on our Borders at that time, by the Reconoitering party we had

out, but I hope now by the snow falling prity deep, it will put a stop to the Savages from making inroads on our frontiers till towards Spring, and as there is no account of any Indians comeing from the Northward to sue for peace, in the Distressed Condition, People would imagine they must be in, seems Very strange which makes me afraid they are meditating something cruel against our Frontier Countys Early in the next spring, but I trust in God it may not be the case.

I am sir with Great Esteem your Excellencys
most Obed. & very Humble Servt.

SAM. HUNTER Lt. N. C.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Wm. Henry to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Lancaster, November 27, 1779.

Sir,

I am informed one John Musser of this Town has lately purchased a Tract of land of about 500 Acres, commonly known by the Name of the Conestoga Mannor, of John Penn, late Governor, of Pennsylvania, for nine Pounds the Acre hard Money. At the Time the Lands in this part of the province was purchased of the Delaware Indians this was Reserved and a Deed was made to them and their Heirs, &c., the Indians who resided on it were killed by a Number of People in a former war and the Deed fell into the hands of John Hay, then Sheriff of Lancaster County, who delivered the same to Mr. John Penn.—This piece of Land was afterwards claimed by Sir William Johnston in behalf of the Heirs, in Consequence of which the use of the Land was given to Mr. Thomas Barton who is gone over to the Enemy. Mrs. Susana Wright could give I believe a more satisfactory Account of this Affair than I can. It may be proper perhaps to enquire into this Affair. I have therefore thought it my Duty to give all the Information I have been able to collect.

I am with due Respect,
Sir,
your obed't hum. Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq.

Gen. John Armstrong to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Carlisle, 27th Nov. 1779.

Dear Sir,

Amongst the few newspapers I have seen since my return to this place, happily one fell into my hands which conveyed the agreeable account of your Excellencies re election to the Presidency of the State, whereby my wishes are naturally excited that your health and happiness &c., &c., may at least be commensurate with your progressive administration.

The present hour like the season of the year puts on a sable hue our disappointment in the south being unfavorable to the expectation of an early Peace, and the wild depreciation of our money still more so to the augmentation & support of our army. When in town we fondly hoped that some quantity of flour might safely have been shipped from this State to a foreign market, but on coming into the country was much surprised to find the lightness of our last winters crops, to that degree that many farmers thrash out five dozen of shoks for one Bushel of wheat, whereas one Dozen, or from that to eighteen shaves formerly yielded a Bushel, neither is the weight what it usually has been. This defect however I find much more prevalent on the west than on the east side of Susquehanna, and is thought to be occasioned by the Frost and afterward a mildue. Yet nothing of this kind, nor it's presumed will the Law either be able to deter the distillers of whisky from proceeding too far. The Laws however of the late session of Assembly have not yet reached this length, which begins to occasion some complaint, and the publick highways in a bad situation must probably now lie over another season—Whether the Majestrates at their Octob^r Sessions wou'd have taken means to prevent this long delinquency I cannot tell, their last sessions here & I believe also at York being totally frustrated by the sitting of the Supream Court at the same time, which 'tis to be hoped will never happen again otherwise I'm persuaded tis not to be forgiven. The Assembly have done right in fixing on five instead of seven delegates to represent them in Congress, but wrong in not varying this choice in two instances, as Dr. Shippen & myself might with equal decency & propriety have been left out thro' infirmity, and this I hope may still be thought of & accomplished at the next sitting of the house, as Integrity alone without a capacity for action & attention to business will not do.

A Lieutenant & some subs for the County of Cumberland its said are now wanting, Coll. Dunlap lately appointed as County Lieut. having declined the office and wrote to some members of Assembly in favour of a certain Capt. Thos. Buchanan, on behalf of whom I have been requested to write your Excellency. Capt. Buchanan is one of the reduced officers & was I'm told of the 1st Regt. of this

state commanded by Coll. Chambers. I have but a small acquaintance of him but think he appears pritty well & has as far as I have heard a good character among his neighbours, so that from his military knowledge on the whole I'm of opinion He may fill the place of County Lieutenant with greater accuracy & decorum than can well be expected from any of our freeholders less acquainted with that kind of business, he is young & alert, said also to be prudent & a good Clerk, from his wishes to be appointed I presume he is friendly to Governmt which we may naturally suppose must be increased from the ties of the office. If the place is not filled up it may if you please be expedient to show this paragraph to Coll. Bayard, Mr. Bryan & Mr. Hoge, who will afterwards use their pleasure.

Our army before this time I presume are forming New Huts for Qrs and you'l probably have the General part of the winter in Town for certain purposes, what else can be done but to retrench the extra Expences in various departments, and depend on the Militia of the States to assist the army thro' the ensuing campaign as need may require, recruiting by enlistment being in all probability now impracticable until our Currency receive a very different & standing value. But shou'd Enlisting be attempted, the rediculous Idea of a large nominal Bounty ought to be rejected as injurious in the end, nor wou'd it even be rec'd by proper men, as in my opinion those only will inlist who from a preference of the soldiers life to that of Labour, knowing they will be Cloathed & fed, may as really & as easily be obtained on a moderate, as on an enormous nominal sum. If you think this opinion may be of any use, you will doubtless communicate it to the General, or such members of Congress as you may think proper. Please to present my best respects to your Lady, my venerable old friend Mrs. Debert & Miss Polly Reed, colonel Pettit if convenient.

And believe me dear,

with great truth to be y^r

Excellencies most respectful

& Most humble Servant,

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

I find my son has lately been in town but being a stranger to many characters there I had wrote him in Octob^r on whom to call, but find by a line from him he had not read them letters & was obliged to return suddenly.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

PATRICK RICE TO DAVID FRANKS, 1779.

Elizabeth Town, December 4th, 1779.

Dear Sir,

Agreeable to my frequent late advises to you from New York, informing that your presence there in order to have a personal interview with the Commander in Chief, to settle & agree on Certain prices for the Provisions Supply'd the British Prisoners as Agent to the Contractors, I now confirm and personally repeat to you, it is the express Order & directions from the Lords of the Treasury, to the Commander in Chief to make such Settlement with you only, as no more Certificates are to be granted as usual, and I now find that it is intirely out of my power to do any thing farther in Receiving the just Consideration for the Amount of said Provisions, the account has been properly passed at the Commissary Generals Office in the usual way, and farther the large and heavy advance you are in for Contingencies to the sick, wounded &c., is acknowledged to be right, & furnished by good Authority, but for the same reasons as before mentioned you Certainly are the only person that can agree upon a just price & due proportion of and on said accounts; Therefore you must again apply to Authority for a Pass to enable you directly to come into New York, to endeavor to put an end to the said heavy & weighty matters which so nearly concerns both you and your friends, the effects of the long delay & disappointments I have no occasion to repeat as you are so well acquainted with all the disagreeable Consequences attending thereon, and it is my firm belief that a Settlement would then be made, & we return home, which I most ardently pray for, A pass for your landing in New York, I have petitioned for, and obtained.

I beg leave to assure you
that I am most truly & sincerely
Dear Sir, your most obed^t
& very hbbl Servant,
PATRICK RICE.

Directed,

David Franks, Esq., Philadelphia.

Wm. Armstrong to Pres. Reed, 1779.

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., and Honourable the Supreme Executive Council.

William Armstrong presents his compliments requesting the sum of Four Thousand pounds for the purpose of paying the workmen & sundry materials purchased for the Fortifications on the Delaware, and you'll oblige,

Your most Obedient

& very Humble Servt,

W. A.

December 1st, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President.

Pres. Reed to Francis Swaine, 1779.

Tho' the Distribution of the Officers' Cloathing cannot be imposed upon you as a Duty, upon the strict Line of your Appointment, yet the Supreme Executive Council repose so much confidence in you as to believe you will readily undertake it, & having had your Service so far, may depend upon your completing the Business. In which you will please to observe the following Directions :—

First. The Cloathing being packed up regimentally, you are to be careful that no Box or Case be opened but in the Presence of the Pay Master of the Regiment, to which it is directed or in Case of his Absence to some Officer nominated for that Purpose by the Field Officers.

Secondly. When Articles such as Hats, Shoes, are pack'd up together you are to divide such Articles as near as may be in Quality & Quantity, and then the respective Pay Masters to draw Lots for them so divided.

Thirdly. As there is a Difference in the Number of Officers in the Regiments, each Pay Master is to bring with him a List correspondent to that sent down here, upon which the Cloathing has been prepared. Noting any Alterations by Death or Resignation, & then each Quarter Master is only to take as many Suits of Cloaths, Hats, &c., as will supply each Officer completely with one Suit, agreeable to the Law of the State which you will also have for your Guide. None are to draw but those specified in the Law, & in the Manner therein prescribed. Whatever is left after this you are to reserve & render an Account thereof to us.

Fourthly. No officer can draw in Virtue of any Nomination or Appointment merely, but only according to the Commission or Warrant actually held.

Fifthly. The surgeon of Col. Proctor's Regiment having been irregularly appointed, & the Mate who served during the Campaign & war returned as the Surgeon, having received a Suit of Cloaths here, the present Surgeon is not deemed intitled.

Sixthly. Boots not being an Article directed by Law, One Pair is to be considered as equivalent to three Pair of Shoes & drawn accordingly. The Difficulty of procuring proper Cloth has prevented more than one Pair of Breeches to be forwarded, but Justice will be done the Officers in this Respect.

Seventhly. You are to take Receipts from each Qr Master, (except for the General Officers) specifying the Number of Suits, Shirts, Hats, Shoes or Boots & other Articles delivered to him, & he is, in a reasonable Time, to return you a Receipt from each Officer of his Regiment—returning to you any Surplus.

Eighthly. In Case of any Claims made which are doubtful as not being within the express Letter of the Act of Assembly, you are to reserve them for the Determination of the Council, agreeable to the last Section of the Law.

Genl. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Head Quarters, Morris Town,
December 4th, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform your Excellency and the Council by the conveyance which now offers by Express, that Monday the 20th Instant, is appointed for proceeding in the trial of Major Genl. Arnold. The Court Martial will sit at the Camp, in the vicinity of Morris Town. I have written to Mr. Matlack and informed him of these circumstances, and I request the favour of Your Excellency to communicate notice of the same to any Witnesses there may be besides. If there are any in the military line, and I am inform'd of them, I will order their attendance, or if there are any under this description at or in the neighbourhood of Philadelphia, who might possibly go from thence before they could receive my orders. Congress, I am persuaded, will, upon information of the fact, direct them to attend.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your Excellency's most obedient Servt,
Go. WASHINGTON.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pensilvania.

Go. WASHINGTON.

Pres. Reed to Genl. Washington, 1779.

In Council,

Dec. 4, 1779.

Sir,

Having given you full Information in a former Letter of the State of the Cloathing designed for the Troops of Pennsylvania, it will not be necessary to trouble your Excellᵧ with any farther Information. At that Time it was not known that the Coats received from the Board of War were actually pack'd up & cased so as to make the return here difficult & inconvenient. But being desirous to obviate every Difficulty & answer your Wishes intirely on this Subject, the Council have resolved that the Cloathing so delivered to us should be deemed to belong to the United States, & be under the Direction of the Clothier General, as if no Delivery had been made to the Clothier of this State. Not doubting but such Directions will be given by the Commander in Chief as will best promote the publick Interests. Major Swaine, the State Clothier, has the Cloathing under his Care & a Copy of the Resolution, which he will communicate to your Excellᵧ & obey your Orders or those of the Clothier General in the Disposal of the 2000 Coats, being the whole we receiv'd from the Continental Store.

We flatter ourselves this Mode of obviating any Discontents will be quite agreeable to your Excellᵧ, & beg you to believe we are on all Occasions with the greatest Respect,

Your Excell'ys Obed. & very H'bble Serv.

Signed in Behalf of the Council.

Captain Thom's Campbell to Council, 1779.

To the Honourable Members in Council, I Beeg Leav to present a true Copy of a Letter to Colᵒ Broadhead, Which I am aristed for, and giv som Reasons for the Warmth Expressed in my Letter. Being ordered by Colᵒ Loughery to March my Company to fort Wallis, I then applied to Colᵒ Broadhead for horses and provision to transport My Company to my New post. Was Refused Supplies of every kind; Likeways teen of My Men Being inlisted into the 6 pennsylvania Regᵗ, Before the terms of their inlistments are expired. Ner Wear the Discharged from My Company; the were also Detained, and Not Sufered to March with the Company; therefore I submit My Celf to this Honourable Bord. I have the Honour

to Be your obedᵗ

and Humble Servᵗ,

THOᵒ CAMPBELL, Capᵗ.

Hed Quarters, Hanastown, Decr 8th, 1779.

Sir,

I wood be glad to know by What athority my men is Detained; or, if it is By your orders, I will inform you that their times is Not out, Neither are the Discharged; therefore I Requist you Will send them or give My Sargeant Liberty to March them to this place to join My Company; other Ways, I will Be under the Needsesity of Demanding them on-other tearms, as their inlistments is Not agreable to the Regulations of the army. You are not unaquent'd with the articles of War; please to Look Sexion Sixt, article third. I Wait your answer, agreeable to Which I Will prooceed. I heave the Honour, Sir, to be your

obedient Sarvt,

THOs CAMPBELL, Capt.

Directed,

To His Excln'cy, Joseph Reed, president in Council.

Mons. Du Portail to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Morris Town, December 12th, 1779.

Sir,

Your Excellency has been pleased at my passage at Philadelphia, to make me the promise to send immediately at Camp some *queries** of the Counsel respecting the proposal which I made to levy for the State of Pensylvania, one of the Companies of Sappers & Miners which are to be form'd. I am, moreover, in the necessity to know what determination the Counsel think proper to take on that Subject, and should be infinitely oblig'd to your Excellency to inform me of it by writing.—Mr de Casting, my aid de Camp, whom I have the honour of presenting to you, will take the charge of the answer of your Excellency, to whom he may also give all the details respecting that Corps.

I have the honour to be, with the highest Respect,

your Excellency's

The most humble &

most obedient Servant,

DU PORTAIL.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State, Philadelphia.

* See Vol. VII., page 690.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1779.

War Office, Decr 13, 1779.

Sir,

We have this moment received advice from Col. Rawlings that he will have a second guard ready for securing prisoners at fort Frederick, by the first of January next. We beg your Excellency to inform us whether you can favour us with a guard of militia to escort them thither, & how soon; and if a guard can be furnished, we request one may be ordered. One hundred men, including officers, we suppose will be sufficient, as the number of prisoners will be but about four hundred. The scarcity of provisions & wood will render it extremely difficult to support the prisoners here, and (as was suggested by the Council) are urgent inducements for their removal. Colo Rawlings has already laid in provisions for them at Fort Frederick, & wood is at hand. Their remaining here would, therefore, prove doubly injurious to the States. For these reasons, your Excellency will permit us again earnestly to request that the necessary guard may be immediately ordered out.

We have the honour to be,
very respectfully,
your Excellency's
most obedient servants.
By order of the board,
TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,
His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq.,
War Office.

Col. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Pittsburgh, Decr 18th, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I am honored with your several favors of the 30th October,* & the 19th & 20th of Novemr.

I should have been glad to have had an earlyer information respecting the Corps of Rangers, But being uninformed I thought it very extraordinary that they should be subsisted out of the public Magazines & yet be under the seperate direction of a County Lieut. Those companies have hitherto been stationed at Kittanning (Fort Armstrong) and at Pocketos (Fort Crawford) but as the Terms of

* See Vol. VII., page 771.

the Men were nearly expired & the River likely to close with ice, I ordered the Troops to this place because I apprehended no Danger from the Enemy during the Winter Season, and if provisions had been laid in at those posts they must have been exposed to loss besides it would have been quite impracticable to have supplied them with fresh provisions, and the Quarters at those posts were too uncomfortable for naked men. For though the State have provided the Troops with Shoes & Blankets they are not yet arrived.

Capt. McIntire certainly was deficient in not informing you that he was to escort up such Cloathing as the State & the Board of war should be pleased to furnish for the Troops in this District, and if my Memory serves me I requested him to inform you particularly of his errand.

As soon as I knew it was required I remitted to you a return of my Regiment which I hope you have received, and I have the pleasure to inform you that notwithstanding the high Bounty given by our neighbours the Virginians, I have lately recruited upwards of twenty men and they have not recruited half that number. Indeed I conceive that the 9th V. Regt. & several other Corps claimed by that State will make a part of our quota as soon as the line is determined between the States, they having chiefly been recruited within our State.

I am very thankfull for the supplies afforded by our State. I know that great difficulties must attend the procuring them at present and I am certain that every officer & soldier in my Regt. entertain the highest sense of gratitude towards our legislature in general & towards you in particular.

In recruiting men I endeavoured as much as possible to save the State Bounty but it appeared to have greater weight with the recruits than any other money & Virg^a holding out 750 Dollars to the same men, I could not avoid giving them our 260$ and will remit you an exact acc^t of the money I have advanced for the State as soon as the recruiting officers have settled with the Auditor.

I am exceeding sorry to find that our sanguine expectations from the Southward are defeated and I dread the consequences to the states of Carolina & Georgia however I hope we shall retaliate before spring there or in some other quarter. For my own part (as the Inhabitants of this frontier are freed from apprehension of Danger for this winter), I hope either to be in Detroit or the Natchez before Spring & to convince you that I am not much inclined to quit the Service whilst an Enemy remains within our Country.

I am sorry the Board of war could not furnish a larger supply of Shoes and a number of Hats, It is almost incredible how fast men wear out Shoes in this kind of service but the shoes we have hitherto received were scarce worth the expence of transportation.

I meet with little perplexity in the common cause of my Duty but the want of many necessary articles for the Troops & Indians the want of money in every Deparment with the difficulty of getting the

ordinary supplies & the trouble of the Indians who for political reasons I am oblidged to admit Drunk & sober on all occasions these with the undetermined State of the rights of the Garrison & a rascally set of Inhabitants at this place is sufficient to destroy the patience of Job.

I will endeavor to oblidge Capt. McIntire wth some Cloathing as I think him deserving.

Capt. Irvine left his post without any leave from me but as it appears he was under the direction of (his son in law) Mr. Lochery he is probably justifiable on having obtained leave from him.

Please to accept my best Thanks for the paper & pamphlets, I have likewise had the pleasure of reading a number of well calculated Laws of our State for which I presume I must be indebted to you. This regard gives me the highest satisfaction for though acting as a soldier, I am ever concerned for the welfare of the State of which I have the Honor to be a member.

The sending Capt. Finley was owing to a presumption that as you had wrote for an officer to take charge of the Cloathing, Capt. Mc Intire might have set out with only a part and such other articles as I had wrote for to the Honble Board of war.

Give me leave to assure you as I do without Flattery that it gives me infinite pleasure to find you are again elected to the Presidency of the State, this is a tacit acknowledgement of the peoples Confidence of which I sincerely wish a long continuance.

Please to present my respectfull Compliments to Coll, Bayard and believe me to be with the sincerest regard & esteem your most,

Obed't &

Hble Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Directed,

His Excellency Gov. Reed.

Col. Lund Weltner to Board of War, 1779.

Sunbury, December 13th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

On my being ordered down from Wyoming the first consideration which engaged my attention with regard to posting the Troops under my command was to find what position Col. Hartley and the other Gentlemen who had preceeded me in this command had taken. I found Fort Muncy on the West and Fort Jenkins on the East branch

with the Magazine at Sunbury to have been the only Standing Posts that were occupied. This Position (which I have never since heard censured) I endeavoured to revive. Col. Hunter whom I consulted was of the same opinion, the only difficulty was to fix on some place equally well adapted to cover the Frontier as Fort Muncy was: Fort Muncy having been evacuated and destroyed—McClungs was agreed on and a detachment of the Troops accordingly took post there the 5th of last month. The Troops however found this place so void of shelter and so barren of Timber, that they were oblidged to abandon it. The information given to Council of the defences erected at this Place being totally false and groundless; This detatchment accordingly moved to a place called Mountgomorey's nearer to Basley's Mill and equally well situated for the defence of the Frontier as Mc Lungs at this place the Troops having erected Barracks and other necessary Defences and their vicinity to Basley's Mill being not more than about 2 miles distant, makes another Post there quite unnecessary at present.—The detachments to Mountgomery's and Jenkins have left me only men enough at Sunbury to mount a couple of sentries: I erect any new Posts without abandoning those already occupied and the Season of the year forbids such a measure—as to disputes among the Inhabitants I hear of none, I know of none. But there is a Rival Town over the River which is not without its factious Citizens and am of opinion that great part of the Complaints made to Council, have originated with one Rees a discontented Commissary, who ('tis said) is likely to be discharged and would throw all into Confusion rather than be unemployed. The Council however have been egregiously abused by misrepresentation and falsehoods, this must in part have appeared to the Honble Board from my letter of the 6th ult., informing of the Position which the Regiment had taken, whereas the President's Letter of the 22^d places them all at Sunbury.

The affair of the Ferry had engaged my attention before I saw the Letter from Council. The Posts are not to be relieved as mentioned in the President's Letter.

The Purchasing Commissary is using his utmost endeavours to have the Posts supply'd with a Sufficiency of Provision for the winter in which case any Magazine at Northumberland Town is useless.—I am however sorry to inform the Board of War that not only the Posts, but even Sunbury is likely soon to be destitute of Provisions, upon my arrival at Sunbury the Commissary of Purchases applied to me to write down to Col. Cox and use my influence verbally with Col. Cook to have Provisions brought up, particularly Some Salt, which was at Estherton—I did so but without effect, after all our Efforts the Salt is only now arrived and the Cattle are miserably fallen away.—Flour and Liquors we are now at last informed are not to be had: I am sensible the purchases in this County are trifling and will not Support us.—I am clearly of opinion that much Blame ought to lie on the Quarter Master. Some of them whose conduct

I have had an opportunity of observing, are to say no worse of them miserably indolent.

I have the Hon^r to be, &c.,

Gent. your S't

LUND. WELTNER.*

Directed,

Hble board of war.

COL. ARCH. LOCHRY TO COL. DAN. BROADHEAD, 1779.

(Copy.)

Hannas town, ye 13th Dec., 1779.

Hon^d Sir,

His Excellency, the Precedent of this State, hass invested me with Authority to Station Capt^s Erwine & Cap. Campbles Companys of Raingers to Cover this County, Where I may think their Service Will Be of the most Bennifitt to the Distressed frontears. I have Rec^d orders for that Purpose.

In Consequence of Which Orders, I Request of you (Sir) to send these troops to this Pleace as soon As Possible, Where I Shal Assyn them Stations that I flatter myself their Service Will be of more Benifitt to this County than it Can Possibly Be in fort Pitt.

As these troops are Paid and subsisted By the Continant, I must Request of you (Sir) to Give Orders for their Being Regularly Supplyed in Provitions.

If you should think of any offencive meashurs to Be Carried on against the Savages, Both those troops my self & all the Assistance I Can Rease in this County shall Be at your Command.

I am, Sir, with Due Reguard

& Esteem your very Humb^e Sarvt.,

A^d LOCHRY, C. L.†

To Col. Dan. Broadhead. An exact Copy. JOS. L. FINLEY, M. B.

* See Letter Board of War, Dec. 24.

† See answer to this, Dec. 18.

Secy. Matlack to Col. Wm. Coats, 1779.

Philada., Decr 13, 1779.

Sir,

His Excellency, the President has just received a request from the Hn'ble Board of War for a Guard to conduct Prisoners from this city to Frederick. His Excellency desires to know whether the two Companies of Militia under your direction for a like purpose some time ago, can now do this duty. The time presses and therefore beg your immediate reply.

I am, &c.,

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

To Col. W. Coats, Lieut. County Philada.

Extract of a Letter from Genl. Washington, 1799.

Extract of a letter from his Excellency, Genl. Washington, dated at Morristown, Dec. 14, 1779.

"If the company lately commanded by Capt. Lee & Capt. Porter can be annexed to Col. Proctor's regt without producing discontents, it will be desirable; but as we have had so much uneasiness & distraction on the subject of rank it is necessary that it should be inquired what operation the measure would have. When this is made I will communicate the result."*

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1779.

War Office, Dec. 14, 1779.

Sir,

We are sorry we again troubled you about a guard for the prisoners destined for Fort Frederick. We are this day informed that the Virginian troops are all on their march from Camp, & may be at Trenton to night—part are arrived in this city. We shall obtain a competent guard of those men whose times of service will expire in

* See letter Board of War, Dec. 22.

the course of the present month. If any orders have been given for turning out a militia guard, we pray they may be countermanded.

We have the honor to be,

with the greatest respect,

your very obedt servts.,

By order of ye Board.

TIM. PICKERING.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President, &c.

War office.

MAJOR JAMES REED, &c., TO PRES. REED, 1779.

Camp near Morris Town, 14th Dec'r, 1779.

Sir,

The officers from Pennsylvania in Col. Hazen's Regiment beg leave to call your Excellency's attention to our particular situation. We entered the service of our Country at an early period, we have not hesitated to share every danger and difficulty in common with our Brother officers, and have also been fortunate enough to be of the number of those who had the thanks of the Commander in chief for our conduct in a general battle; we have often been detached a great distance from the grand army upon hard and disagreeable service, and necessarily on our marches incurred greater expences. When we took commissions in the present Regiment, engaged in the common cause, we were taught to believe we could render as much service there as in any other Corps, and by no means expected to be considered as aliens, or excluded any benefit common to the officers of the same State. We have seen a resolution of the Honourable the Congress last Spring calling for returns from the additional Regiments that the States severally might have credit for so many officers & soldiers & be accounted as parts of their quota. In consequence of which the States of Massachusetts Bay & Connecticut have considered the officers & soldiers from their States (in the same Regiment with ourselves) as part of their quota, and given them all the benefits & privileges of their State Troops; from whence we were induced to believe that the State of Pennsylvania (not less generous than her sister States) had made a similar provision for us, untill undeceived by the commanding officer of the Pennsylvania lines. When the claims of our Country called us into the Field, we chearfully left the pleasures and indulgencies of retirement to encounter the hardships & toils of war, not only to protect the rights of mankind, but our own individual Liberty, and now when the war is apparently drawing to a conclusion, we shall reluctantly leave the work unfinished for which we have made so many Sacrifices, but the

advanced price of every necessary will not leave it in our power to continue in a Service in which we are so much interested, unless some provision shall shortly be made for us. Relying on your Excellency's justice & liberality of Sentiment we are.

With the greatest respect,
your Excellencies
most obedient and
most Humb. Servts,

JAMES R. REID, Maj'r,
JAMES HERON, Capt.
THO. PRY, Capt.
J. DUNCAN, Capt.
WM. STUART, Lt.
ANDREW LEE, Ens.
L. MANNING, Ens.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reid, Esqr President of the Honble Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

INVITATION OF FRENCH MINISTER TO PRES. & COUNCIL, 1779.

The Minister of France presents his Compliments to the President, the Members and Secretarys of the supreme Council of Pensylvania, and begs their favour of their Company at Fridai next, to dinner, at four o'clock.

Indorsed,

1779 rec'd Decr 15th, Invitation of the Minister of France.

Directed,

To the honnorable the President, Members and Secretarys of the Supreme Council of Pensylvania.

Pres. Reed to Delegates in Congress, 1779.

In Council,

Philad. Dec'r 15th, 1779.

Gentlemen,

It is with great Concern we are obliged to call your Attention from other important Duties to those immediately affecting the Interests & Honour of this State in its relative Capacity to that of Virginia. It cannot be unknown to you that the State of Pennsylvania not only from a due Respect to the Recommendations of Congress, but from the Disposition & Temper of its Citizens have manifested the most Sincere Desire not only to settle all Disputes of Territory in the most amicable Manner but to forbear any irritating Measures & even to suppress such Resentments rather than injure the common Cause & violate the Union so necessary in the common Defence—Actuated by these Principles we have seen the State of Virginia in progressive Encroachments advancing upon the old allowed Territory of this State taking Possession & otherwise establishing themselves on Lands ever deemed & considered as the Property of Pennsylvania untill Ld Dunmore in the Extravagance of his Views & Designs set up Claims which in their Infancy were reprobated by those who now have thought proper to adopt them. We have constantly recommended to the Inhabitants of those Settlements a Forbearance of all Acts of Violence & Hostility & even passive Acquiescence under Injuries in full Expectation that our Candour & Moderation would have produced reciprocal Return. We have made frequent Proposals of amicable Settlement, Suspension of acts of Jurisdiction & in short pursued every Measure which led to Peace. After much Delay on the Part of Virginia a Proposal for friendly Accommodation was accepted, Commissioners mutually appointed met at Baltimore & amidst reciprocal & strong Professions of Friendship & Harmony signed an Agreement by which a Boundary Line was established at least 30 Miles Westward of the Territory claimed in Consequence of Ld Dunmore's Violence & Injustice—This Agreement has been laid before the Assembly of this State & received a solemn Ratification of which Notice has been sent to the Government of Virginia. It cannot be doubted that an Agreement entered into on the last must have been in due Course laid by the Commissioners before their Constituents, & we have not the least Reason to believe it has been rejected, tho' we do not know that it is confirmed. In this State of things the Transactions referred to in the inclosed Letter from the Hon. Mr. Scott an Member of this Board have taken Place—We shall not make any Remarks thereon least the Expression of those that are most just & obvious might indicate too strong a Resentment & furnish a Pretence for farther Violence. But the Repetition of Injury must naturally

produce Consequences of the most serious Nature which we sicerely deprecate & it is our most earnest Wish to avoid—we have therefore thought it our Duty to lay this Matter before you as the Representatives of Pennsylvania in the great Assembly of America convened for the Purposes of general Union & common Defence that you might take their Sense thereupon & that we may avail ourselves of their Judgment & Influence if they conceive the common Interests of America injured thereby. At the same Time we shall make such a Remonstrance to the State of Virginia as the Interests & Honour of this State require—if these should be ineffectual we trust we shall stand justified in the Eyes of God & Man if availing ourselves of the Means we possess we afford that Support & Aid to the much injured & distressed Inhabitants of the frontear Counties which their Situation & our Duty requires. And we trust our Brethren in the common Cause will not impute to us any of the Consequences which may affect them in the farther Progress of this unhappy Dispute—when they see that no new Claim is made by us—no Disturbance on our Part of any Person who professes himself a subject of Virginia but on the other Hand amicable friendly Settlement not only desired but sought & as we hoped happily attained.

The People of the County of Westmoreland are now waiting with great Anxiety & the Express is detained for the Purpose of carrying back the Proceedings that may be had in this important Business. Should Congress therefore think proper to come to any Resolution, thereupon you will communicate it to us as soon as possible—We cannot conclude this Letter without expressing our Concern that when this State just recovering from the Invasion of the Enemy & of Depredation is called upon for its utmost Exertions to support the Continental Army when our trade is repressed by a severe Embargo for that Purpose, a severe System of Taxation commencing when the Inhabitants of our Frontier have been groaning under all the Calamities & distresses of an Indian War, our publick Burthens are thus wantonly & cruelly increased by those who call themselves our Brethren. In Conformity to the Wishes of Congress we have not entered upon the sale of any of the vacant Lands, but as the Money expected from the Sales are we fear the principal Cause of all their Difficulties unless the like Respect can be obtained from Virginia, Necessity will oblige us to go into that Measure without Delay as the low Price of Lands in their Office & the Market it affords seduce our Inhabitants, fix them in an opposite Interest & oblige many of those who hold under Pennsylvania to take Grants for the sake of Peace.

I am Gent. &c.

Directed,

To the Honble the Delegates of Pennsylvania in Congress.

Copy of a Letter from Gen. Washington.

Circular.

Morris Town, December 16th, 1779.

Sir,

The situation of the Army with respect to supplies is beyond description alarming. It has been five or six weeks past on half allowance, and we have not more than three days bread at a third allowance on hand, nor any where within reach. When this is exhausted we must depend on the precarious gleanings of the neighbouring Country. Our Magazines are absolutely empty every where, and our Commissaries entirely destitute of money, or credit to replenish them. We have never experienced a like extremity at any period of the War. We have often felt temporary want from accidental delays in forwarding supplies; but we always had something in our magazines and the means of procuring more. Neither one nor the other is at present the case. This representation is the result of a minute examination of our resources.

Unless therefore some extraordinary and immediate exertions be made by the states from which we draw our supplies there is every appearance that the Army will infallibly disband in a fortnight.

I think it my duty to lay this candid view of our situation before your Excellency, and to entreat the vigorous interposition of the state to rescue us from the danger of an event which if it did not prove the total ruin of our affairs would at least give them a shock from which they would not easily recover and plunge us into a train of new and still more perplexing embarrassments than any we have hitherto felt.

I have the honor to be

with perfect respect

Your Excellency's most obedient

and humble servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.*

* See Answer page 54.

Sec.'y. Matlack to Capt. Geddis, 1779.

Philadelphia, Decr. 16, 1779.

Sir,

Immediately after you gave me the certificate signed by Mr Hale I laid before the Council the Deed sent in by you. The Deed contains not one line or corner and every member of the Council now present are clearly of Opinion that such cannot be signed. I give you the earliest notice of this, in order that no suspicion of a delay on my part in this case may have the least foundation, as it would really give me pleasure to forward any business of yours as soon as it is in my power to do it consistent with my duty to the public.

I am Respectfully

your humble servant.

T. M. Secy.

Directed,

To Capt Geddis.

Opinion of Jonathan D. Sergeant Esq, 1779.

Sr,

The Commissioners unacquainted with Law, are at a Loss what Construction to put 7th Section of the Act of General Assembly for raising the supplies for the year 1779,

Suppose A Assessor of a Ward or Township calls on B to take a return of his Taxable property, B refuses to give any Account; Is that considered an intention to screen his property from Taxation, and in that Case ought B to pay fourfold for the whole of his Estate. If not, what penalty does B. incur.

I think in this Case according to the words of the Law B ought to be assessed fourfold for the whole. The Legislature could never intend to punish a *partial* Concealment & let a *total* Concealment go unpunished.

JONA. D. SERGEANT.*

16 Dec., 1779.

Indorsement.

1780, Recd January 10th, Opinion of Attorney Genl on the 7th Section of the 15 Million Tax Law.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 244.

Sec'y Matlack to George Stevenson, 1779.

Philadelphia, Decr 17, 1779.

Sir,

Your letter of the 19th of Novr came to hand yesterday and was immediately laid before the Council. The Conduct of the Agents in the sale you mention has the full approbation of that board.

It will be proper for the Agents to give Mr Peters a formal information that his claim will be heard before the next supreme Court, and that no delay will be made in the decision on the part of the state, and at the same time requesting, as a matter of right, that he bring before the Court the book which you mention to have been kept by the Revd Mr Peters. This information will leave Mr Peters no reasonable excuse for delaying the appeal and if he should not think proper to delay it, will no doubt be a strong circumstance against his claim in a circumstance so peculiar as this is.

Your general knowledge of the land affairs of the county of Cumberland will enable you to place this affair in its proper light before the Court which will be serving the state essentially.

I am Respectfully
your most obt servt,
T. M. Secy.

Col. Brodhead to Col. Lochry, 1779

Head Quarters, Pittsburgh, Decr 18th, 1779.

Dr Sir,

I have received your favr of the 13th instant.*

His Excell'y, the president, had made me acquainted with your authority for Stationing the Companies, by a letter I received from him just before yours came to hand, together with the reasons for delegating the power to you.

The officers have, doubtless, received your orders to march to Hannahs Town, & there receive your further orders; and I shall not prevent their paying the strictest obedience to them.

As to the Provisions, I do not know where they are to be supplied; and, as you seem to be vested with authority to station the Troops, you will, doubtless, be able to get them supplied, by directing your orders to the proper Commissaries.

I apprehend it to be absolutely necessary, that those poor naked

* See page 42.

men should first be supplied with some kind of Cloathing, before they are ordered out of their Barracks And as they are now under your immediate Discretion, except in cases of offensive operations, I request you will see that the articles which I have furnished them out of my Regimental Store be returned. The officers can inform you what they are.

I am much obliged by your kind offer, and have the honor to be, Dear Sir, your most Obed^t Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD,
Col^o command'g W. D.

Directed,

(On public Service.)

To Col^l Archibald Lochry, Lieut^t of Westmoreland County.

Hon^d by Lt Armstrong.

Col. Marsteller to Council, 1779.

Philad^a, Decr 18th, 1779.

To the Honourable the Sup^r Ex^t Council of the Common Wealth of Pennsyv^a.

Philip Marsteller, of Lancaster County, begs leave to represent, That he has setl'd with Mr Turnbull respecting the Flower—That there is a Ballance due him of £4899, 15*s.*, in said Account, as appears ℔ Certificate inclosed—and That Mr Turnbull has not the money to pay him, &c.

He further represents that he stands in need of about £5200 to enable him to pay off and discharge the militia of Lancaster County late in service, and yet unpaid.

Therefore prays your Honors to grant him an Order for said two Sums of money.

P. MARSTELLER.

P. S.—Provided the State Treasurer has no money, an Order on the Loan Office of this State now kept at Lebanon, would be Satisfactory.

Your Hon^rs Hum^le Servt,

P. MARSTELLER.

Col. Geo. Smith to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Montgomery, December ye 20th, 1779.

Sir,

Last fryday I held an appeal in Colo^l Curry's Battalion, and I Likewise Ordered those Men that had march'd in ye two Last Caul'd Classes, to attend on Saterday to Receve their Bounty as your Last Orders directed; but ye men in Stid of being Satisfy'd With it, they Seem'd as if they Would not have taken aney; but through Perswasions I got them to take y^e £30 allow'd; but they Insisted on ye other twenty Pounds of Right, Using this for their argument, that from your first orders promised to Pay it them in their absence; and in an other Peas that was published in ye Newspaper after they Came home; and as they actuly Did march, that their Was an absence, and that We make thoes that Did not march Pay their full fine, They say that all Justis and Equity Will Give it them. This, Sir. Was their argument, and Exprest Very Warmly. I Gave them No expectation of hoping for more; but before I Could Git ye matter Settled any fashion, and to Git Rid of their Noys, I advised them to address ye Councel themselves by Way of a petition; they then Would Know of a Sertinty Wheather any more could be had or no. I Would begg Leve to Say, that if Councel Should find that they of Right Should have ye other £20, that you Would not Extend ye Orders in a General Orders for ye County; for their Was but ye 4th & 5th Battallions that hasy Least Cullar of ye argument of absence, for they Neither of them Was to march till ye Saterday after ye Countermanding orders, that it makes a Wide Difference betwean those that Was Put to ye trouble, and those that Was not. Excuse my abrumpnes of Riting, and I shall Ever Remain most humble Servant,

GEORGE SMITH, S. L.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed Esqr, Presedent of ye Supreme Executive Council State of Pennsylvania.

Col. Lewis Farmer to Council 1779.

To the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen:

I beg leave to Inform Council that a Supply of Twenty Thousand Pounds is wanted to pay of Arrerages, and for the making of Officers' Cloathing and Shirts.

I further beg leeve to Inform Council, that I took the freedom in a former Memorial to observe, that my pay as Cloathier (viz., five Dollars per Day) is by no means adequate to the present Enormous Prices; would therefore humbly beg Council would take it into their Consideration, by adding a Ration to it.

I am, Gentlemen,
with the greatest respect,
your most Obedient
and very humble Servant,
LEWIS FARMER.

Philadelphia, December 20th, 1779.

Indorsed,

1779, Decr 20th. From Colonel Lewis Farmer. Application for £20,000.

Pres. Reed to Committee of Congress, 1779.

Gentlemen,

Our Anxiety to give Relief to the Army has induced us to devote a considerable Portion of the Time which has elapsed since our Interview to that important Service, & we now send you the Resnlt of our Proceedings. Your Commissaries, we apprehend, will have no Difficulty in procuring what is in Town, but should there be any Hesitation in the Possessors to part with what they have, we shall chearfully give them our Aid. We also find that the Brandywine Mills do, in all Probability, contain a very considerable Quantity of Flour, prepared for private sale, which, on this Emergency, may be obtained. As the Legislature of the Delaware State is now setting at Wilmington, within a very short Distance of those Mills, it cannot be doubted they will exert themselves on the Occasion. We shall continue our Inquiries & render every Service which the Nature & Necessity of the Case requires.

I am, with great Respect, Gentlemen,
Your obed. & very H'bble Servt.

Pres. Reed to Charles Hall, 1779.

Philada., Decem^r 21, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 27th Ult., is now before me & has been communicated to the Council. The great Scarcity of Money for publick Use has obliged us to call upon all officers who are in the Receipt of publick Monies to pay what they have in Hand & you cannot at present render a more acceptable Service. The Terms of Sale of purchased Estates which have been forfeited are to be strictly adhered to agreeable to the within Resolution, which you will consider as your Rule of Conduct in that Respect. No Indulgence can therefore be allowed to Col. Crawford or any other Person, as the Terms were well known & it would have been more to the public advantage to have received a less Sum with Punctuality.

The Council by no Means admit your paying any Taxes laid after the Sale. The Tax being then justly recoverable from the Possessor, in fact there is a very great absurdity in assessing any of these Estates unless they are in the Hands of Tenants, as it amounts to no more than taking out of one Pocket to put into the other. But in the Case you have stated it does not admit of a Doubt.

You will also observe by the inclosed Resolution that farther sales are to be forborne for the Reason therein specified, to which I would add that you are desired to inform us by some early Opp^y what Estates yet remain unsold, with a State of their Value as near as you can—& also to remit to Mr. Rittenhouse what Monies are on Hand, with all convenient Despatch.

I am, Sir, your obed. H'ble Servt.,

J. R.

P. S. Should Judge Atlee give you any Directions respecting a Tract of Land formerly belonging to some Indians in your County, the Council request you to follow them & give your Assistance in that Matter.

To Charles Hall, Esq., Agent &c.

Pres. Reed to Genl. Washington, 1779.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 16th Inst.,* advising us of the melancholy State of the Army, came to Hand on Sunday Evening, and was early the next Morning laid before the Council. Soon after a Committee of Congress laid before us a Letter on the same Occasion & to the

* See page 48.

same Import. We did not consider it wise or prudent to spend Time in unaviling Complaints of Mismanagement or Neglect, but net endeavour to apply a Remedy. For this Purpose we caused Inquiry to be made of the Quantity of Flour in the Town & its Vicinity, & found a greater supply than at first we expected, the whole amounting to 2500 Barrells, which might be spared, of all which we gave immediate Notice to Congress, pointing out the Places where it lay, & offering our utmost Aid & Assistance in procuring it, if the Possessors made any Difficulty to part with it. We also find on farther Inquiry that there are some Quantities of Wheat in the Brandywine & other Mills, which, with Attention, may be procured for publick Purposes. The Crops in this State are very far from being so plentiful as was believed some Time ago. The Supply of the French Fleet & the Draught of our Flour to Baltimore & Wilmington, where the Embargo has not been executed with the same strictness as in this Port, has also very much lessened our natural Stock. Added to this we supply from this State only a greater Number of Rations than the whole of the Continental Army. Those drawn in this Town alone amounting to 9400, and that during the whole of this Summer. This heavy Consumption must necessarily exhaust our Resources & prevent our giving that Aid which might otherwise be expected. However your Excell^y may be assured that nothing shall be wanting on our Part to give the necessary Relief, whatever we may think of the Causes of such a Calamity. The Assembly will meet in a short Time; Taxes are in vigorous Collection throughout this State & if some fatal unforeseen Influence does not blast our Prospects, we think a similar Scene will never present itself.

I am now also to thank your Excell^y for your Favour of the 22d November, deciding the Dismission of the Militia, & for the favourable Sentiments it contains of a public as well as personal Nature. Happily the Orders given were not marching Orders, but to hold themselves in Readiness, so that all Expence of Provisions & of every other Nature has been saved, except the Pay & Bounty of about 200 Men, which latter has been reduced one third. About half of these were kept in Pay for 2 Months at the Request of the Board of War to escort Prisoners to Maryland, so that we have the Pleasure of having avoided putting the States to any Inconvenience or Expence, & yet I flatter myself we should in Case of Necessity have furnished as large a Body of Men as would have been required, & as good as that Service intitles us to expect.

I have the Honor to be, with very great
Respect & Regard, Your Excelly's
most obed. & very H'ble Servt.

Indorsed, Dec. 22.

Pres. Reed to Judge Atlee, 1779.

Dr Sir,

The Letter of which the other side is a Copy, we received from a Gentleman of Character, in the County of Lancaster; as it seems to be a Matter of some Consequence, the Council request you to take the Trouble of making Inquiry, & in Case the Facts are as stated, to forewarn Musser proceeding, as the Lands are unquestionably the Property of the State, having been reserved, not for Proprietary Use, but that of some Indians, who appear to have forsaken them.—Mr Hall, the Agent for confiscated Estates, will follow such Directions as you may please to give in the Matter.*

I had promised myself the Pleasure of seeing you before you left Town, as I wish'd to have had your Opinion & Advice on some Matters of a public Nature—but your close Attendance upon Court deprives your Friends of the Pleasure of seeing you so often as they wish.

This Oppy going immediately, I must beg if you see your Brother soon, to present him my Regard, & acquaint him that I have received his Letter, which I shall answer in a short Time, & am, with Compliments to Mrs Atlee & Family, with much Esteem,

Dear Sir,

Your most obed. &

very Hble. Serv.

The Hon. Wm Atlee, Esqr, One of the Justices of the Supreme Court.

Major Lee to Pres. Reed, 1779.

I do myself the honor to transmit in the present enclosure, a letr from the Clothier of the State of Pennsylvania, in reply to an application made by me in accordance to a late resolution of Congress announced in general orders.

I pray, sir, that you will be pleased to order on the subject of the gentlemen of my corps. Subjects of Pensylvania are not entitled to equal advantages with the troops from that state, then it behooves the United States to pay attention to them; & your Excellency's decision will enable me to conclude whether the resolution of Congress was form'd to advantage the objects of it, or only to amuse.

Should the Cloathier have misunderstood his instructions, an order from your Excellency to Captain McLane in behalf of the three officers from Pennsylvania in my corps, will fully answer every purpose.

* See page 54.

The gentlemen have received nothing out of the liberal supplys voted by the State for the use of their troops; therefore, I presume they will be considered as entitled to their full share of the allowance for '79.

I have the honor to be, sir, with the most affectionate respect, your Excellency's most hum. servt,

HENRY LEE, junr,
ord. cons. aid.

Mon. Cty. 23d Decbr, '79.
His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1779.

War-Office, Decr 23, 1779.

Sir,

For the information of your Excellency and the honourable Council, we inclose you an extract of a letter from his Excellency General Washington, relative to the company lately commanded by capt Lee & Capt Porter, proposed to be annexed to Proctor's regt.*—When we receive the General's final answer, we will do ourselves the honour to communicate the same to your Excellency.

We have the honour to be
your Excellency's
most obedt servants.
By order of the Board,
TIM. PICKERING.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Sir,

I have the honor to lay before your Excellency and the honourable Council, a copy of a letter from Col. Weltner† to the board, respecting his disposition of the Troops on the Frontiers of Pennsa, & am, with high respect, yr Excellency's most obed. serv.

By order of the board,
BEN. STODDERT, Sec'y.

Directed,

His Excellency, President Reed.
(War Office.)

* See page 43. † See page 40.

Pres. Reed to Treasurers, 1779.

Pa, Dec 24th, 1779.

Sir,

The present Exigencies of publick Affairs, a particular Detail of which would show not only how much the general Interests, but the Honour & Safety of the State suffer by the exhausted Condition of the Treasury, has induced the executive Power of Government to make this special Application to all Persons who, having been employed in publick Business, have Monies in their Hands. The Number of these throughout the State must be very considerable; &, as there is no Time wherein they can make payment with more Ease to themselves, we desire that you will exert yourself, & in faithful Discharge of your Duty, as well as Justice to the Publick, make Return of all Persons in your County, within the above Description, who refuse or neglect your Application. The Emissions being now stopp'd, it behoves us in our respective Stations to see Justice done our Country, not only by Oeconomy & Prudence in the Expenditures, but in calling to Account all publick Defaulters by whatever name or Office they are or have been distinguished. We must refer you to the printed Papers for our special Motives, & have now to request & direct you to cause the Acts of Council to be set up in the most distinguished Places, & to be read in Courts or other publick Occasions—& also to direct them specially to any Persons whom you know or believe to fall within the above Description; and in short, to take every other Measure for this desirable Purpose which your Prudence & Judgment shall direct. We have also sent Directions to the Commissioners & others employed in the publick Taxes, to quicken them in that important Business, & hope you will forward it as far as lays in your Power—informing us, from Time to Time, of the State of your County in these Respects, & we assure you a due Attention will be paid to any Representations you may make on these very interesting Concerns.

I am, Sir,

Your Obed., Hble Serv.

To , Esq.,
Treasurer of the County of

Pres. Reed to Prothonotaries, 1779.

Pa, Decr 24th, 1779.

Sir,

The present Exigency of publick Affairs, a particular Detail of which would show, not only how much the general Interests, but the Honour & Safety of the State suffer by the exhausted Condition of the Treasury, has induced the executive Powers of Government to make a very special Application to all Persons employed in the Collection & Management of the public Taxes, to urge them to the Discharge of this necessary & important Duty. The special Motives on this Occasion are so plainly expressed in the printed Letters accompanying this, that I need only refer you to them, & request you to send to each Commissioner of your County a proportionate Number of the Letters, to be by them sent to the several Assessors & Collectors to excite them to Dilligence & Expedition worthy the great Cause in which we have been so long & successfully engaged, & equal to the present Necessity.—We recommend them, therefore, to your particular Cara, & depend upon your forwarding them with all convenient Dispatch.

I am, Sir, Your Obed. &
very Hble. Serv.

To , Esq.,
Prothonotary of the County of

Capt. David Zeigler to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Honourable General,

Great Uneasiness was among the Gentlemen Officers in not receiving Tea & Coffee, or some article in Liu of said. After Informing them that it could not be procured they all was Satisfaye.

Humbly I beg your Excellency of a few Lines to the Officers Commanding the division in regard of this, which would have more to say than if was Able to Speak a week long to them, and would take a General Satisfaction in the Line. I am no Writer to make Exspression how well it would be for the Gentlemen which takes my Place after this.

The Artillery 4th & 11th P. Regiments proposed to draw from me by the 1st January. I therefore send my Serjeant to Philada.

for forwarding a Large Cargo, which will be Transported by Land from Philadelphia.

Honourable General,

I have the Honour to be

Your most humble and

very Obedient Servant,

DAVID ZEIGLER, Capt. 1 P. Reg't.

Directed,

On publick Business.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, Governor for the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Col. Matlack to Pres. Reed, 1779.

The Fleet which I mentioned, in mine of yesterday, consisting of upwards of an hundred sail, Mr. Tilghman tells me is the homeward bound trade, under convoy of a 74, and two small ships. The Transports with the troops on board are still at the watering place, 50 or 60 sail. It is conjectured these transports are waiting the last hour for intelligence by the October Packet, which has been expected, impatiently, for some time.

T. MATLACK.

Morris, Dec. 26, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President.

Col. Matlack to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Morris Town, Dec. 27, 1779.

Dear Sir,

The enclosed letter for Mrs. Burgin is from Head Quarters, and contains an order for provisions to be delivered to her.

His Excellency, Gen. Washington, has thought it proper to pay her this attention, and I must beg you will send Jimmy or Sneider with the Letter to her.

No News this morning, but a Free Mason Procession intended this day, will probably delay the Court Martial.

I am, with the greatest respect,

Your most obt. Servt.,

T. MATLACK.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the state of Pennsylvania.

JAMES MCLENE TO PRES. REED, 1779.

P^d, Dec. 27th, 1779.

Sir,

Being informed this morning that in the townships Near Carlisle, in Cumberland County, No Collector has Demanded the fifteen million tax, (& the State Being much Reflected on for Being Dilatory,) I submit it to your Excel^y whether it would Not Be proper for you to write, or Direct Mr. Rittenhouse to write to the treasurer of Cumberland on the Subject, &c.

I Remain your Excely^s most

obedient Hbl^e Servt,

JAS. McLENE.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, President.

PRES. REED TO DELEGATES IN CONGRESS, 1779.

Gentlemen,

I inclose you a Report of a Committee of Council upon the State of the Barracks.* These Buildings having been given up to the Use of the United States, it will be expected that they be repaired at their Expense, & in this view the whole Business will probably fall under the Direction of Congress, or their own executive Board. Should there be any Attempt to refer the Correction of these Abuses to the Authority of the State, we desire you would object to it. We cannot think of involving ourselves in any farther Disputes with these Officers, who being under the immediate Appointment of Congress,

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 208, 211

resent our Interference & in Consequence treat us with very little Respect or Decency, & we think in this Case it is unnecessary because they are under the Inspection of their immediate Superiors. At all Events we decline acting farther than giving you Information as Members of Congress, being resolved never again to commit ourselves as Parties or Accusers, & with the Officers of Congress incur the Imputation of indulging private Resentment, when we have only the publick Interests in View. These sentiments are for your own Government only, unless any Measure should be proposed which may make it necessary for you to disclose them.

I am, Gent., Your Obed. H'bble servt.

Board of War to Col. Weltner, 1779.

War Office, Dec. 28, 1779.

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Copy of the President's Letter, respecting the Corps formerly Commanded by Major Ottendorf. It is represented to us that forty two men out of the different Companies whose times are at present near expiring, can be engaged for the War. We have sent you recruiting money for that Purpose, which you will deliver to such of the Officers (as shall be agreed on among themselves,) who are to continue in Service; the Proportion of officers not to exceed the number of Men who are engaged for the War; when this arrangement is made and the Men enlisted for the War, we could wish they would be annexed to your Regiment, provided it would be productive of no disturbance among the officers.

We also send you recruiting Money for your own Regiment; both Sums amounting to ten Thousand Dollars; if you meet with success, you may have more money by applying for it.

I am, Sir, your obt. Servt.,

By order of the board.

BEN. STODDERT, Sec'y.

(A Copy.)

Col. Weltner, Commanding at Sunbury.

Benseller Williams to Pres. Reed, 1779.

Sir,

At the request of Mr Pringle, I am to acquaint you of the cause of his stay here, which was owing to the not coming of Governor Livingston to this place, who is expect'd every day; & as nothing with propriety co'd be done till his arrival, the weather setting in bad, Mr Pringle thinks he can't stay for the answer that would be given after the Governor's arrivall. Am, with due Esteem, Sir, your most Obedient, Hble. Servt,

BENSELLER WILLIAMS.

Trenton, Decemr 28th, 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Philada.

President Reed to Hon. Thos. Scott, 1779.

In Council,
Philada, December 29th, 1779.

Dr Sir,

Your Favour, by Mr Linn, was duly received & attended to as its Importance required. Apprehending that any particular Directions from this State would not, in such a Case, meet with due Respect & Obedience, we thought it best to lay the Matter before Congress, which we did by sending them a Copy of your Letter, with such Remarks as occurred to us. You know that Body is not very quick in its Determinations, which has occasioned our detaining Mr Linn so long—but we thought it most for the publick Interest to do so, rather than the People should be kept in suspense. After receiving the Determination of Congress, we issued the Proclamation,* 50 of which Mr Linn takes up with him—You will, from its Import, see that we thought it best to avoid all irritating Measures, & express a Confidence in the Justice & Honour of Virginia to rectify the Measures now complained of. We were induced to do this as well from Considerations affecting the general Interests of America, which will be materially injured by any Rupture between the two States, as Information that the State of Virginia has been led into the late Measures by interested, designing Men, which, upon better Information, they may retract; and that as it is, they are by no Means agreed among themselves on this Business—so that, if treated with friendly Moderation, we may reasonably hope an amicable Settlement —notwithstanding the present unfavourable Appearances. We have

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 210, 213, 214.

sent you an attested Copy of the Resolution of Congress, that you may communicate it to the Commissioners if they are yet with you, —and we would desire you to do it in form, demanding of them whether they will yield Obedience thereto, & transmitting to us their Answer so authenticated, that, if necessary, we may lay the same before Congress. We shall also remonstrate to the Government of Virginia, & hope that our Efforts will be attended with the happy Effect of relieving you & the Inhabitants of the disputed Territory, who are attached to the State, from the Apprehensions of further Oppression & Injury.—

But should our Mediations & friendly Desires on this Occasion not meet with a suitable Return, & our Overtures of peace be rejected, we assure you that the Encouragement given in our Proclamation will be fully complied with, so far as lays within the Power of this Board; & we doubt not the Assembly, which will soon meet, will be equally disposed to maintain the just Claims & Jurisdiction of the State, & to support those who adhere to it in the Rightful Possession of their Property & Estate.—If the Line adhered to by the Commissioners shall be ratified by Virginia, we hope it will have an immediate Effect in restoring Peace & Tranquility, & we shall give you immediate Notice thereof. In the mean Time, we request you to use your utmost Influence to preserve the Fidelity & Attachm^t of the Inhabitants to the State, & to repel the Claims set up by every peaceable Mode, & such as are consistent with the Proclamation sent you, which you will cause to be dispersed thro' the County—sending Copies thereof to Fort Pitt. Mr Linn's Expences amount to above £600, which we shall discharge; & as these incidental Expences run so high, you will see the Necessity of making use of other Opportunities when they can be obtained with safety. We hope the Members of Assembly from your County will be punctual in their Attendance on the House, as you must be sensible from the constitutional Limits of our Board, that we must be invested with farther Powers before we can give the adequate Relief if our Present Measures fail of producing the desired Effect.

I have inclosed the late News Papers, & wishing you better Health, so as to give your Assistance at the Board, especially if the Disturbances continue, remain,

Dr Sir, your sincere Friend,

& Obed., Hble. Serv.,

JOS. REED.

Col. Brodhead to Col. Lochry, 1779.

Head Quarters, Pittsburgh, Decr 29th, 1779.

Sir,

The bearers Captain Clark and Ensign Cooper with a recruiting party will proceed to Hannah's Town to recruit some Men & I have no Doubt but you will give them every possible assistance. They take with them an acct. of Shoes &c., furnished the different ranging Companies which be pleased to see replaced out of the Articles sent up by the State.

Our provisions (particularly meat) is very deficient of the quantity I had a right to expect. I think it adviseable to discharge the Ranging Companies so soon as they are mustered and paid which I expect will be done by the time this reaches you.

The recruiting officers are ordered to send up such of the men of the ranging Companies as have been recruited into the 8th P. Regt. during the war. And I wish you to impress on the minds of the officers of these Companies that they cannot now more essentially serve their Country than by encouraging their men to enlist during the war.

If it would not be too inconvenient I should be glad to see Captn Thompson here before he returns to the interior part of the Country.

I have the honor to be

Dear sir your most obedt Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Colo commandg W. D

P. S. Please to present my Compts to the officers.

D. B.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To Colo Archd Lochry Lt of Westmoreland Coty.

Hon'd by
Capto Clark.

Col. Isaac Melchor to Pres. Reed, 1779.

May it please your Excellency,

A greater number of Troops are expected in this Bay than can possibly be accommodated in the Barracks; as there is no law in this state to warrant my quarter them on the inhabitants, I addressed myself to the Justices of this City & they have refer me to your Ex-

celly & Council, you will be pleased to consider the propriety of my application and give such directions as you may be pleased for my goverment—it intended to pay the inhabitants for fuel should any be consumed belonging to them or any allowance you may judge proper. I am with much Respect

Your Excellys
most obe ser,
J. MELCHOR.

Phi. 31 Dec., 1779.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq. President of the supreme Executive Council Pennsylvania.

Col. Lochry to Col. Brodhead, 1779.

Hannastown, ye 31st Dec., 1779.

Hon^d Col^o,

Your feavour of 29th* Instant was handed me By Capt Clark. As for the stores sent hear By the State of Pennsylvania the Cap^ns Own Recpts Lies for them. I do Not Pretend to take any Charge of them. I Mentioned your Request to the officers & Doubt not But what they Borroed will be Replaced as soon as their Stores Comes to hand. The paymaster of the Rainging Company's is not yet arived, or any orders from his Excellency the President of this State for discharging these troops. I flatter myself that when the Defenceless state of this Country is Represented we shall have orders to Reinlist those Companys.

The officers of the Rainging Companys are under the necessity of Directing there Orders for Provitions to Col^l John Erwine whome they think will not Be Doubted to Be a proper Commisary of Ishues althow the Board of ware orderd a magazian to be Laid in at this Place to support these troops, if that is Not Done I am determined to Represent that with Every other Slighty and indifferent support given to this County since the ware Commenced. And the Empossibilaty of this County standing next summer should the Indian Hostilatys Continue without that necessary article of Provitions. It would Be imprudent in me Circumstanced as I am to Order any thing Consearning the men of the Raingers who are inlisted in the 8th P. R. Or even to give any active encouragement till I hear from Councel who in that respect are my shuperiors. But I do assure you it Ever wass and Ever shall Be my Principal to Give

* See page 65.

Every assistance and use Every Effort in my Power to Every recruiting Party.

A. LOCHRY.

A True Coppy.

Indorsed,

Col. Lochry's Letter to Col. Brodhead to his Letters of Dec. 18th & 29th, 1779.

MAJOR LEE TO PRESIDENT REED, 1779.

I did myself the honor of addressing your Excellency a few days since,* on the subject of cloathing for three officers in my corps, subjects of the state of Pensylvania.

I then transmitted a letter from Mr. Swain, issuing clothier at camp, in answer to my application on behalf of the above mentioned gentlemen.

Presuming that my address did not reach your Excellency, I beg leave to repeat my request, to know whether officers out of the line of the state, citizens of the state, are not entitled to equal privileges & compensations with the officers of the line, agreeable to the resolution of Congress.

If they are, I flatter myself your Excellency will be pleased to issue an order in behalf of the underwritten gentlemen.

If the order can be complied with in Philada., Captain McLene will receive & execute it, if it is necessary that all supplys should come thro' the state clothier at camp, I must request an enclosure of your directions under cover to me.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
with the most singular respect,
your Excellencys most ob. Servt,

HENRY LEE, Jun., Ass. Com. Md.

Mon. Court house, 31st Dec., '79.

MATTHEW IRWIN, Surgeon.
JAMES ARMSTRONG, Lt.
JOHN GORDON, Adjutant—officers in the partisan corps & subjects of the State of Pennsylvania.

His Excell'y, Joseph Reed, Esqr.

* See page 56.

Col. Brodhead to Captain John Clarke, 1780.

Head Quarters, Pittsburgh, Jan. 2nd, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I have wrote to Col. Lochry to arrest Captain Thomas Campbell, for for writing an Insolent letter to me, &c. Likewise to procure a certified Muster Roll of Captain Irwin's Company & send it to me; and to Captain Irwin to send up the men of his Company who are reinlisted into the 8th Pen. Regt during the War. I have likewise desired Col. Lochry to arrest him for disobedience of my orders should he not comply. But as Mr. Irwin is Col. Lochry's Father-in-law, he will probably disobey my instructions, which, if he does, I request that you will do all that I have directed him to do.

I hope you have made some progress in recruiting & trust you will not suffer any thing that may be said by the people about you to prevent your engaging as many of the Rangers as you can during the war.

You will probably see Captain Irwin's men paraded, & I desire you to count them, & among other things write what numbers he has, & by oblique enquiries endeavour to find out how many are absent, & where? Please present my Compts to Mr. Coussar.

I wish you great success and am, Dear Sir, your most obedt servt.

DAN. BRODHEAD,
Col. Commanding W. D.

Capt. Jno. Clarke.

A true Copy.

Jos. L. Finley, W. B.

Col. Brodhead to Capt. Joseph Irwin, 1780.

Head Quarters Pittsburgh, Jan. ye 2d, 1780.

Sir,

I wrote to Col. Lochry some days ago, requesting him to direct that the men in your Company which have been enlisted into the 8th Pena. Regt during the war should be sent to join the Regt. But he thought it improper to give any orders concerning them;

wherefore you are on the receipt of this order to send them without loss of time.

I am, Sir, your Hble Servt.,

DAN. BRODHEAD,
Col. Commanding W. D.

P. S. Ensign Coussar is at Hannah's Town & knows most of the men.

To Capt. Jos. Irwin.

A true copy.

Jos. L. Finley, W. B.

Col. Brodhead to Col. Lochry, 1780.

Head Quarters, Pittsburgh, Jan. 2d, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I have received your favor of the 29th ultimo.

The president of the State wrote me that the ranging Companies were raised by order of Congress, but I know of no Power he is vested with to discharge or re-inlist the Men.

It would give me great Pleasure to see the men re-inlisted, during the War, and provided for as other Continental Troops, as otherwise they can be of but little Service, and if a reinforcement is not had by Spring, it will be out of my power to afford the Frontier that protection which I could wish.

Mr. John Irwin, is, doubtless, the proper Commissary of issues, but if the Board of War did order a Magazine be established at Hannah's Town, that Honble Board did not think it proper to acquaint me with any orders concerning it, but have probably given orders to the Comm^r Genl. of Purchases. I don't know what you mean by "slighty and indifferent support," given to your County. I am very certain that your County has received much greater support since I had the Command of this Department than any other frontier County, and the late expedition to which your County contributed a very small force, was evidently calculated for the protection of your County, and in its Effects contributed greatly to the protection of Bedford & Northumberland Counties. But some Gentlemen may find a pleasure in complaint, even under the fullest gratification. If so, let them be indulged.

Since you apprehend an impropriety in giving orders, agreeable to my request, I shall direct Captain Erwin to send up the Men, and I must request you to send me a Copy of your Instructions from the

president of the State. I suppose you are authorized to procure a certified Copy of Captain Erwin's Muster Roll, and I request you will transmit one to me by the first opportunity, or deliver it to Capt Clark, to be forwarded by him. And should Capt Joseph Erwin refuse to send the Men upon the receipt of my Orders, I farther request you to arrest him, and send him here for trial.

I have just received a very insolent and impertinent Letter from Captain Thomas Campbell, who, I request you will likewise arrest, and send to this place, where a General Court Martial of the line is already ordered, & he may have an immediate trial.

Whilst the Ranging Companies were under my Command, I took all possible care to have them supplied, but I do not conceive it to be any part of my Duty to provide for troops who are under the immediate Command of any other Gentleman.

I should be glad to hear from you by the first opportunity, and am with much respect & esteem, your obedt Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD,
Col. Commanding W. D.*

Directed,

On public Service.

To Col. Archibald Lochry, Lieut. of Westmoreland Co.

Royal Flint to Gen. Washington, 1780.

Sir,

I have frequently within these last few days acquainted Colo Hamilton with my prospects of supplies—and thought I had good authority for all I communicated; yet I now find the event does not precisely agree with what I foretold. As soon as I was informed that there would be a failure of Beef Cattle from the Eastward, I used the most probable methods of procuring a supply in this State; and I had reason to suppose a sufficiency could be collected to serve the Army several Weeks. Proper persons were employed to explore every part of this State. They reported at first rather indefinitely; but as soon as it was known they could expect no immediate sums of money, their resources drew to a point, and they informed me with exactness what they were able to afford. Upon a Calculation, it appeared their succours would carry us nearly to the middle of the present month. They gave me assurance of sending on the supplies they had, immediately and, from the distance, I had reason to expect considerable before this time. But it does not yet come, and the Army are almost perishing for want. It distresses me exceedingly

* See page 79.

that I am obliged to make this report; but I must mention facts. My expectations are as follows:

	Barrels.
From Mr Hooper, in Sussex County, Salt Meat,	400
From Pitts Town, ...	50
From the Counties of Middlesex & Somerset, .	250
	700

At the North river are Cattle, . . .	200	head
In the County of Orange, . . .	150	
In Sussex, at least . . .	20	
In care of Mr Dunhausay, . . .	50	
	420	

Our distresses are known to the several persons who have charge of the foregoing provisions, and I am persuaded they will leave nothing undone to forward them. I have no absolute dependance on any farther supplies of meat than are mentioned above. The purchasers here say they would buy cattle if they had money, of which I can neither give nor promise them any, as there is not the least prospect that any adequate sums of money will be furnished the department, and our credit is totally exhausted. With respect to Bread, I can only say that there is Grain in great number of mills in this State, which is getting ready as fast as possible, and will not be delayed unnecessarily. I have no more Bread at present in Camp than will serve the troops to morrow. I fear the Storm will keep the waggons from moving, as well as the Cattle from travelling.*

I am, with Great respect,

your Excellency's most Obt Sert,

ROYAL FLINT,

A. Com'y Purchases.

Morris Town, Jan'y 3d, 1780

His Excell'y Genl Washington.

Indorsement.

1780, recd January 14th. Read in Council the same day.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 227.

Instructions of Council to Lieutenants, 1780.

In Council, January 3, 1780.

Instructions to the Lieutenants and Sub-Lieutenants, appointed to receive the Recruits.

Sir,

Agreeable to a Law of this State, passed the last Sessions, impowering Council to appoint an Officer or Officers for the Purpose of receiving the recruits, that shall be enlisted pursuant to said Act, we have appointed the Lieutenants and Sub-Lieutenants of each County: In which Duty you will conform to the following Instructions:

1. You are to receive none but those able of Body and fit for Service, as Soldiers,—not old Men or Boys, nor Deserters from the British Army, or the Army or Navy of the United States, or Waggoners engaged for any Term of public Service.

2. You are to take the Recruits to the most convenient Place for subsisting them, to be appointed by the Commissioner of Purchases where they are to be supported at Continental Expence, by the Commissary of Issues of the United States.

3. Until they are marched to such Place, you are to subsist them at the most reasonable Rate in the County, not exceeding Two Shilling and six pence *per* Day.

4. In your service herein you will be allowed for every Recruit so delivered by you to the Continental Officer who will conduct them to Camp.

5. In case any Deserter is tendered agreeable to the 4th Section of the said Act, you will take charge of him; and if by his own confession signed by himself, or the Oath of any Continental Officer, it shall appear he is a Deserter, you will secure him in Irons and send him to Goal till the Troops march, and no Class is to be deemed exempt from furnishing the Recruit, until such Deserter shall be ascertained, as aforesaid: Such Confession or Oath to be forwarded to Camp with the Prisoner.

6. You are also to receive from the Justices, with the Recruits, the Attestations and Certificates, which you are carefully to forward to this Board.

7. Regular Accounts to be kept of all Expenditures; for reimbursing of which, Draughts will be made by this Board, when the Account is furnished and approved.

8. In Case any Recruit shall desert after Inlistment, you are immediately to advertise him, offering Twenty Shillings Specie for apprehending him; and you are desired to put the Law strictly in Force, against every Person harbouring Deserters, by which they are liable to pay £5, Specie, for every Offence, to be recovered before any Justice of the Peace.*

Wm MOORE,
Vice President.

* From printed handbill.

Wm. Govett and Wm. Geddes to Council, 1780.

Hon. Sir,

We received your Requisition of the 1st, & should be happy in waiting on you, but the weather being bad, we hope will plead our sufficient excuse, as Mr Nicholson, our Clerk, can satisfy you as to what you desire to know respecting Genl Arnold's accounts, haveing gone through the whole of them with us.

We have the Honor to be your
Honors' Most obt servts,
Wm GOVETT,
WILL. GEDDES.*

Treasu'y office, 3 Jan. 1780.

John Nicholson to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

I presented the note I received from you, to Messrs Govett and Geddes according to your request, and wish to lay my sentiments also before your Excellency respecting the Memorandums of Genl. Arnold alluded to, which, if produced, must evince the contrary of the inference from Major Franks having had free recourse to them and his other papers, vizt, that the General had no concerns in trade during his Command in this City.

I remember particularly to have seen a large sum credited on acc^t of his "Carolina concern," as he termed it—I think there were several entries for pieces of goods sold, and I am confident I saw Mr. West's name in them; Mr. Govett says he also saw it, which corroborates my opinion, altho' I cannot remember on what occasion it was used. They also contained several other things of a commercial nature, which, if proved, must, I think, militate against that part of Major Franks' evidence.

I highly revere the Military character of General Arnold, but at the same time am desirous of giving every information I can of his abuse of power, and shall be happy if any thing I know can be of service to the public.

I have the Honor to be, With the
highest respect, your Excellency's
mo. obt., very humble servt,
JNO. NICHOLSON.†

Chamber of Accounts, Jan'y 4th, 1780.
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 219. 225.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 219. 225.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, Jan'y 4, 1780.

Sir,

The board are favored with yours of yesterday, & return their thanks for your Excellency's attention to the Public Interest—in consequence whereof they have conversed with Mr. Bright, & will endeavour to remedy the abuse; but as it arises chiefly from peculation on the road, it is to be feared it will be almost impossible to prevent it.

Inclosed is the copy of a letter the board wrote to Col. Weltner, previous to their receipt of the proceedings of the Hble. the Council on the subject of Schott's Corps.

I have the honor to be,

with respect, y^r Excellency's.

most obed., Humble serv.

By order of the board,

BEN. STODDERT, Sec'y.*

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of Pennsylvania.
(War Office.)

Gen. Irvine to Genl. George Washington, 1779.

Cranes Mills, Jan ye 4th, 1780.

Sir,

When I wrote your Excellency the 1st Inst. I had hope that I should not be under the necessity of troubling about provisions; but I was mistaken, for notwithstanding repeated promises from the Commissary here I have not been able to get more than one days bread since I came here except some Buckwheat and a little corn, this I borrowed from the inhabitants, and was obliged to promise to pay them in kind. They have been very hospitable but seeing little prospect of being paid, my credit begins to run low and they make a thousand apologys particularly scarcity for their families.

My out Guards croud Expresses on me, complaining of want and in short expressing fears that will not be able to keep their men long together without Relief.

The spirit of desertion still prevails six have left the out posts at different times. The detached state they are in facilitates their

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., 219.

escape, indeed is a temptation. I assure your Excellency it distresses me exceedingly to harass you with Complaints & have forborn as long as I think consistent with my duty—Shall be happy when in my power to give you more favorable accounts.

I am &c.,

WILL^m IRVINE.*

(Copy.)
Directed,
Genl. Washington.

Extract of a Letter from Genl. Washington to Congress, 1780.

Dated, Head Quarters, Morristown, Jan. ye 5th, 1780.

"It gives me extreme pain that I should Still be holding up to Congress our wants, on the score of provisions, when I am convinced they are doing all they can for our Relief, duty and necessity, however constrain me to do it.

The enclosed copies of letters from Mr Flint the Assistant Commissary and from Genl. Irvine, who commands at present our advanced troops, contain a just representation of our situation. To add to our difficulties I very much fear that the late violent snow storm has so blocked up the roads that it will be some days before the scanty supplies in this quarter can be brought to Camp. The Troops, both Officers and men have borne their distress with a patience scarcely to be conceived, Many of the latter have been four or five days without meat entirely & short of bread and none but on very scanty supplies. Some for their preservation have been compelled to maraud and rob from the Inhabitants and I have it not in my power to punish or to repress the practice. If our condition should not undergo a very speedy and considerable change for the better—it will be difficult to point out all the consequences that may ensue. About forty of the cattle mentioned by Mr Flint got in last night."†

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 227.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 227.

Francis Swaine to Près. Reed, 1780.

Camp near Morristown, Jany 6th, 1780.

Most Respected Sir,

Your Excellency's favor of the 9th December* I received by Col^o Hampton, on Christmas day respecting the Clothing account, but had it not in my power to Concert any plan with the Genl Officers as none of them were present Genl St Clair being gone to Potsgrove Genl Waine with the Light Infantry, Genl Irvine on Comand & Genl Hand gone home.

I wrote some time ago informing your Excellency I had compleated the distribution of the officers Clothing, I have likewise (after a long train of difficulties) compleatd the distribution of the soldiers clothing, most part of them being packed up in such a manner, that it Occasion'd ten times the trouble which it would have done, had they been pack'd up properly. A view of the Invoice will show the Irregular manner in which they were pack'd.

Genl Wilkinson has receiv'd a quantity of Shoes for the soldiers, hope the small number which I brought from Philad^a will not hinder me from receiving my quota for our troops.

Before I left Philadelphia your Excellency directed me not to Issue any Clothing to the Artillery (except the officers) as Col^o Proctor had drawn Clothing for them in Philad^a and since I have been here some of the artillery Officers inform'd me, that Col. Proctor made a brag of it at Head quarters, that he had supply'd his regiment with Clothing, and notwithstanding that, Captain Craig (who Commands the Regiment,) brought me a return of their wanting, Hats, Vests, Shirts, shoes & Stockings, and have (by Genl St Clair's Orders) supplyd part their wants, by drawing from the Continental store at Morristown. As Colo. Proctor is in Philadelphia he can inform your Excellency what quantity of Clothing he drew for his regiment.

Last sunday being the 2^d the month, there fell a prodigious quantity of snow, attended with an exceeding high wind which has fill'd up the roads to the top of the fences, and made it Impossible to travel, and I believe Occasion'd a scarcity of Provisions in Camp.

I have the Honor to be
with the greatest Respect
your Excellency's most obedient
and Very Humble servant,
FRANCIS SWAINE.

P. S. The Officers in General has no notion of the Caps, neither have I forc'd them to except of y^m.

Directed,

On Public Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq. President of the State Pennsylvania.

* See pages 34.

Col. Lewis Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

Five men who deserted from the Thames frigate the night of the 1st Inst. say she is laid up at one of the wharfs of New York; the Loyallist, formerly the Oliver Cromwell & two armed Brigs are in the same situation, the Rainbow of 40 Guns the only ship of force now in York Harbour, the Rose frigate of 20 guns perished on her passage home. Two fleets sailed the latter part of last month, one for Cork the other for the southward & as a storm arose 2 or 3 days after it was apprehended they must have suffered the day after the departure of the fleet a sloop sailed with Horses. Just before these men deserted it was reported that a 40 gun ship was said to be lost off Egg-Harbour supposed to be the Romley as she was the last of the fleet that went out Gen. Clinton on board. The Britania of 20 guns a privateer certainly lost of the Hook another a sloop said to have sunk, her mast head only appearing. The Thames frigate was surprized by the Ice & with difficulty got to the wharf. Informants do not know any thing of more troops embarking. The ships tolerably well manned there being a continual press.

Permit me to Assure you
that I am with respect
Your Excellencies
most obed. Serv.
LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

January 6th, 1780.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed President of the State.

Col. Lochrey to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Hannas Town, January 9th, 1780.

May it please your Excellency,

I was honored with your letter in Council of Oct. 30th* last by Capt. Erwin.

The two ranging Companies were stationed at the Kittaning and Fort Crawford, at mouth of a Creek called Pucatees Creek, on the Alleghany River, which posts were well calculated to cover the Country.

* See Vol. VII., 770.

Col. Brodhead,* for some reasons best known to himself, and without consulting me or any of the Gentlemen of this County ordered both Companies to Fort Pitt.

On receiving your Excellency's Orders for stationing these troops, I made Colo. Brodhead acquainted with the authority I was vested with, (the Copy of which Letter I send enclosed, with the Originals of such as I received from him on this subject, with copies of my answers to the same, for your Excellencies perusal.)

The principal People in the County, and more particularly on the frontier, begin to be alarmed at his conduct in stripping that part entirely of troops, and laying it open to the excurtions of the savages; and it is reported the Savages are drove to Niagara and Detroit, and there supported by the British. If this be so we may expect their visits early next Spring, and, it is generally thought in such bodies that we cannot withstand them. We cannot even call out the Militia of the County for want of Provision. Colo. Brodhead will not suffer a Magazine to be laid in at this place, and has refused giving the ranging Companies any subsistance. We are obliged to billet them out in the Country by fours and fives in a house, the distressed Inhabitants being willing to share the store laid in for their own families rather than let the men be dispersed; and, indeed, I see no possibility of standing next Summer should the Indian Hostilities continue.

Should your Excellency think proper to give orders for the reinlisting these Companies for one year longer, the Officers think it can be done by giving proper Encouragement; and if their service is not wanted on this frontier, it is probable it may in some other Quarter, and I assure you my study shall be to convert their service to the general good of the United States.

Colo. Brodhead's recruiting parties have inlisted a number of the men in the ranging Companies before their times were expired, and when the officers demanded the men to serve out their Times in the Companies they were refused, and ordered to be arrested and sent to Fort Pitt to be tried. I have refused to send them, as I could not see any right they had to be tried (if any fault had been committed) by those who had totally refused them even necessary subsistence.

Capt. Moorhead's Independant Company, that was raised for the protection of this County and stationed on its frontiers for near three years past, is likewise removed to Fort Pitt, and annexed to the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment. If that Company was to be filled, which I think would soon be done if proper officers were appointed, and a magazine to supply them, and were stationed with the two ranging Companies on our frontiers, the Country would be better supported and able to give a good assistance to the Continental troops should any offensive measures be carried on against the Enemy.

* See page 65–67, 68.

I rest these matters to your Excellency's Consideration, and beg leave to subscribe myself,

Your Excellency's most
obedient humble servant,
A. LOCHRY, C. L.

Directed,

His Excellency The President.

Capt. Joseph Erwin to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Hannastown, January 10th, 1780.

May it please your Excellency,

I take this opportunity by Captain Campbell to inform you of a piece of Conduct Colo. Brodhead has been pleased this day to adopt, which is—Capt. Clark, of his own Regt, handed me a ticket in the following words, telling me I was under arrest.

"Hannas town, Jany 10th, 1780.

"Dr. Sir,

"I am ordered by Colo. Danl. Brodhead to arrest you for detain-
"ing the Rangers that was reinlisted into the 8th Pensa. Regiment
"during the war from joining said Regiment, and for disobedience
"of his Orders.

"(Signed,) JOHN CLARK, Capt. 8th P. R.

"To Joseph Erwin, Esq., Capt. of the rangers."

I must confess I was not much surprised at receiving so extraordinary a Letter when I reflected on Colo. Brodhead's late Conduct and treatment of the two Companies of Rangers raised by the authority of your Excellency and Council.

I flatter myself that since I took the Command of the ranging Company I have done every thing in my power for the benefit and advantage of the state, and I trust your Excellency and the Council will take proper measures on this Occasion, as I am arrested for strictly adhering to my Instructions and the County Lieut directions by Order of Council.

Capt. Campbell will inform you further, and likewise of the distressed situation of my Company for Provision, and I hope your

Excellency will afford my Brave men every assistance in your power.

I have the honour to be
Your Excellencies most
obedient h'ble servant,
JOS. ERWIN,
Capt. 1st Rang'g Compy.

Directed,

On Public Service.
To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the state of Pennsylvania.
Pr. favor of Capt. Campbell.

Indorsed,

1780, recd. February 10th from Captain Joseph Erwin of the 1st ranging Compy.

Commissioners of the County of Philadelphia to Council, 1780.

To His Excellency the President in the Supreme Executive Council of this Commonwealth.

The Commissioners of the County of Philada. most Respectfully represent,

That they are put to a particular difficulty in the levying of the fifteen Million Tax by the evasive Behaviour of a number of Persons in the City and County of Philadelphia who refuse to give any Account whatsoever of their property made rateable by the Act to raise the supplies for the Year 1779. The Commissioners find that in the said act, § 4, the Township Assessors and two Freeholders shall go to the dwelling house of each Inhabitant, and shall by all Lawfull ways and means diligently inform themselves of such property, &c. But there is no Clause in the Act obliging the Inhabitants themselves to declare what property they are possessed of. It is true that in the § 7 the penalty of paying four fold Taxes is set on such of the Inhabitants who, in the return which he makes to the Assessors, shall wilfully conceal any part of his taxable property with intent to screen the same from Taxation. But the Commissioners are not clear whether the visible property of these Persons, as Houses, Lands, Cattle, &c., for the sake of their refusing to declare what property they have, may be considered under the aforesaid Act as concealed property, and the possessor thereof charged

with the four fold Tax. The Commissioners pray the Advice and Direction of the Council how to proceed against persons refusing as aforesaid, whether they shall be charged with the four fold Tax or not.

JOHN BROOKE,
FRAN'S GURNEY,
JOS. DEAN.*

Opinion of Nicholas Waln, 1780.

Case.

In the Act of Assembly which grants the four Million of Dollars. Cap. 105 is the following Clause.

§ 7. If any person shall willfully conceali n the Return which he makes to the Township or Ward Assessor any part of his taxable Property within such Township or Ward with Intent to screen the same from Taxation, the person so concealing shall pay four fold Taxes for all such Property so concealed, &c.

Under this Act the following Case has arisen:

A Number of Persons, who apprehend they are called upon to bear a Testimony against Wars and Fighting, not through Obstinacy, Fraud or Deceit, but from a real Scruple of Conscience decline giving an Account of their Estates, as they cannot actively pay a Tax to carry on War, tho' they do not use any Device to screen their property from Taxation, but expect passively to pay their Proportion.

Qu. Are such persons within the meaning of the said Section and liable to the heavy Penalty of a four fold Tax upon all their Estate?

A. Penal Laws which affect particular persons are to be strictly construed and not extended beyond what the clear Words will bear; it would be very unsafe to trust those who are to execute Laws with Power to create Offences by strained Implications, otherwise they might become as Gins and Snares to entrap innocent people and be prostituted to Purposes very different from what the Legislature intended. The Assembly have been very plain in describing the Fraud or Offence which they mean to have punished, and I apprehend not one of the Characters which go to make up the Offence is

* See the following opinions, also Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 244, and p. 49 of this.

to be found in the Case stated. I know not by what Train of Reasoning it can be made out, that a person who conscienciously declines making any Return at all for the Reasons stated and who expects passively to pay his full Tax, is one "who in the Return he "makes willfully conceals a part of his taxable Property, &c., with "Intent to screen the same from Taxation." The two Cases are as distinct in Nature and Description as Light and Darkness; the Act of Assembly has Reference to something done with a covinous or fraudulent Intention, the Case stated has not the least Mixture of Fraud or criminal Intention, in the one is a Design to screen his Property from Taxation, in the other no such View. In short to constitute the Offence mentioned in the Act three things are necessary. 1st, there must be a Return made. 2dly, a wilful concealing a part. 3dly, With Intention to screen the same from Taxation.—But it may be objected that giving no Account, must be a greater Offence than giving a partial Account, to this I oppose (upon the Case stated,) a well known Law Maxim, that the Act does not make a Man guilty, unless the Mind be guilty, and where a person of sober Life and good Morals does declare he acts from a mere Motive of Conscience in Matters of this kind, Charity which is the Perfection of Christianity forbids to deny him Credit and would induce to proceed in the most lenient Manner. And besides as the Act of Assembly makes no provision in the Case stated, it is *Casus omissus* and it is as I apprehend out of the Power of the Commissrs and Assessors to impose the Penalty; neither would such a Clause to accumulate Suffering upon consciencious Men have been just, confounding the innocent and guilty together. I therefore conclude that the Assembly intended to leave Matters of this sort to the reasonable Discretion of the Commissrs and Assessors, who may fall upon easy Means of doing what will obtain a proper Proportion of Tax from such persons without any public Disadvantage and more consistent with Equity, which is all that ought to be desired. For the above and other Reasons I am clear in Opinion, that the Penalty referred to in the Question can not by the said Act or by any Law that I know of existing in Pennsylvania, be imposed upon the Persons stated in the Case.

Being requested to give my Sentiments upon the foregoing Subjects, which being as above, are submitted, &c.

NICHOLAS WALN.

Philadelphia, 1st Mo. 10th, 1780.

Note.—There is another part of the same Paragraph, which clearly shews the present Case was not intended by the Assembly respecting the Qualification of the Witness to prove the Concealment which in Case of a Refusal officially known to the Collector, would be superfluous, but it is proper for the purpose intended.*

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 244.

JOHN HUBLEY TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Lanc^r, Jan'y 10th, 1780.

Hon^d Sir,

I with some others have become the purchasers of an Estate late of Mich^l Witman, an attaited Person of this County. The Commissioners have sold it to us subject to the Leases thereon which will not expire untill the latter End of April or beginning of May next, untill which Time they receive the Rents and the Purchasers are to wait for the Possession, some of the Tenants claim even a Right to a Way going Crop, which tho the Commissioner who Let it denies such a Contract, yet We will have to dispute it with the Tenants, as they have sown the Ground:—But what We look hard on is Mr. Hall's informing us that the purchasers are to pay Taxes before Possession delivered by direction of the Council, and therefore beg the Council will reconsider their directions to the Commissioners respecting the Taxes, as the State not only possesses the purchase Money but receives the Rents and Profits untill the Commissioners are enabled to deliver Possession.

I am, Hon^d Sir,
with great Esteem,
your very hble Servt,
JOHN HUBLEY.

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President.
℞ Charles Hall, Esqr.

HENRY HALLER TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Sir,

It being now verry near two Years since the Honble the Supreme Executive Council was pleased to appoint me Waggon Master for the County of Berks, agreeable thereto, I have endeavoured to discharge the duty incumbent on me from the time of said appointment until now; In the Interim I have several times applied at different places for my Pay without Success. Col. Morgan, Q. M. Genl. at this Post would have paid me the Money before this time, was he properly authorized, but as it is as yet impossible for him or me to Ascertain the exact amount of pay allowed me by the United States, the Pay of Officers having from time to time been Altered, being

unacquainted therewith. I cannot prove my pay rol, & therefore am obliged to lay out of the Money's due to me on that Account, suffering at the same time a considerable Loss by the depreciation of our Currency; under these Circumstances I beg leave to Commit this Matter to the Consideration of your Honble Boddy praying your kind Interposition therein, that I may be furnished with the exact Pay &c. due to me from time to time, which will enable me to prove my Account.

I am Sir,

your Ob^t humble Servt,

HENRY HALLER.

Directed.

To His Excellency Jos. Reed, at Philadelphia.

COMMISSIONERS FOR PROCURING FLOUR &C. TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Sir,

The Commissioners met 11th. Inst. to consult among themselves what they should do with the Salt as mentioned in the inclosed Report. It may perhaps be unnecessary to trouble your Excellency w^h many particulars respecting some of the owners of the Salt on hand, only, avarice, together with the various tempers & dispositions we have to combat with, Induced us to inform your Excell^cy. That having an Offer by John Challender of £30 ℔ B^l. for Coarse Salt & £15 for fine, that is for the Salt in Stamper's Store, which must be taken thence in 9 Days as the Store is then to be applied to some other purpose, the offer mentioned is an evident loss to the Public, which the Commiss^rs did not chuse to transact without advice & direction respecting the inclosed report. We therefore Beg Your Exc^ly would favor us with ans^r & direct as you shall think proper.

Capt. McCulloch informed he had a Df^t. accepted by John Challender for Salt sold formerly, amounting to Four thousand & five Pounds, the Commiss^rs desired he would call for the money & retain the same in hands untill His Excell^y would be pleas'd to order respecting the same.

I am for Commiss^rs.

Your Excell^ys most Obed^t.

& very hum^le Ser^t

ROB'T. AITKEN Secr'y.*

Philad^a. 12 Jany 1780.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 227.

The Commissioners beg leave to make,

Report of Salt, which has not been re-delivered, In Messrs. Barge & Stamper's stores.

Belonging to	*Coarse Salt,*	*Fine Salt,*	
Pelatiah Webster,	27¾	26	63¾
—— Stevens's		167	167
—— McHugh		15	15
		Total in M^r. Barge's Store	245¾ B^ls.
—— Gregg	85		85
—— Price		94½	94½
Arthur Tuston		17½	17½
Cape May		110½	110½
		Total in M^r. Stamper's Store	307½ B^ls.
			245¾
		Total in hands of Commis^rs not re-deliv^d	553¼

ROB'T. AITKEN Secr'y.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Presid^t. of Exc^tive. Council.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia January 12, 1780.

Sir,

You will receive herewith enclos'd an act of Congress of this day together with Extracts of three Letters to which the Act refers. These I am directed to lay before the Legislature of Pennsylvania or in their recess before your Excellency in Council, as also the other States therein mentioned and to urge in the most pressing manner that Immediate Supplies of provision be by those several States sent to the Army.

After the facts stated in the papers enclos'd persuasion & importunity seems unnecessary. The Army must soon disband unless supplied with provision. That cannot be obtained at the present Conjunction of Affairs without the aid of the several States now called upon. The Country abounds with the necessary resources, but private gain seems the only object to many Individuals without any Concern for the public Safety.

Congress have taken proper Measures to have Justice done those States that shall afford present Supplies: The Exertions of New Jersey are already called forth on this occasion. Must it be said that our Army disbanded for want of provision in the midst of plenty?

Since the resignation of Commissary Wadsworth the aid of the States is absolutely necessary to afford Supplies until such time as matters are put in a proper train which I trust will not be long.

I have the honour to be

With the greatest respect,

Your Excy's hble. Servt.

SAM. HUNTINGTON* President.

Directed,

His Excellency The President of Pennsylvania.

In Congress, Jany 12th, 1780.

The Committee to whom was referred the letter of 5th instant from General Washington inclosing a Letter of the 3d from Royal Flint Ass^t Com^y and one of the 4th, from Brig^r Genl Irwine brought in a report, whereupon.†

Ordered, That a copy of the said Letters as far as they respect the distress of the army from the want of provisions, be sent, with all possible dispatch to the Legislatures or in their recess to the supreme Executive Councils, of the States of Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, and that they be respectively urged in the most pressing manner to send immediate, supplies of provisions to the army.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Indorsed,

Read in Council the same day.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 228. & answer. p. 87.
† See pages 70. 74. 75.

Council to Pres. of Congress, 1780.

In Council, Philadelphia Jan'y 15th. 1780.

Sir,

Your letter of the 12th instant, enclosing an order of Congress of the same date and other papers were yesterday received and laid before this board.

The information which had been received, a few days before, of the distress in which the army was involved from the want of provisions, had induced the Council to issue an order to the Commissioners appointed by law, to assist the purchasing Commissary of the United States, to give him every possible aid.

This occasioned a further enquiry, how far a temporary supply could be procured in the city; but there does not appear to be provisions of any kind in the city beyond the usual and necessary supplies for the citizens, except only a quantity of flour in the possession of M. Helker, Consul of France, which, if the necessity of the army should be extreme, may probably be obtained of him by an application from Congress and the Flour replaced in time to answer his purposes.

From the many inconveniencies and dangers which would arise from such a mode of proceeding, we cannot suppose it to be the desire of Congress that Council should appoint purchasers of provisions for the army; indeed it appears to be unnecessary as there is little reason to doubt, but that under the appointment of Congress, a person accustomed to the purchase of flour would be able to procure all the flour which Pennsa. can afford on terms more advantageous to the United States, and more to the satisfaction of the farmer than in the present expensive mode.*

We beg leave to assure Congress, that on application from the Commissary or quarter master, this Council will, as they have always done, cheerfully and zealously exert every power committed to them to give effectual and timely assistance to the United States, on all occasions and more especially on emergencies such as the present. There is but too much justice in the observation which you make that private gain seems the only object of many individuals, without any concern for the publick safety, and although the extraordinary efforts upon too frequent emergencies, and the great inconveniences which arise from every unsuccessful attempt to prevent a further depreciation of paper money, fall with a double weight on the most zealous friends of liberty, yet we dare assure you, that the great body of the people retain an inviolable attachment to liberty, and a spirit of patriotism which will induce them to enforce such measures as shall appear to be necessary to support the great cause in which we are engaged.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XII., page 228.

Council to Lieutenant Samuel Hunter, 1780.

In Council,
Philadelphia, Jan'y 19, 1780.

Sir,

Your letter of the 29th of December last was this day handed to the Council by Andrew Culbertson, Esqr., the Petition and memorial of a Committee of your county was presented by him a few days before.

The Council have had great anxiety for the safety of the frontiers, and especially the county of Northumberland, which is undoubtedly exposed to danger and difficulties, which require the attention of the state. You know sir, that in a case of such extensive consequence, and attended with such a heavy expence as the adopting a plan of the kind mentioned in the memorial; the Counnil have not authority to proceed without the direction of the representatives of the people, even should they fully approve of it. The General Assembly stands adjourned to this time, and will probably make a house in a few days, when the memorial shall be laid before them for their consideration, which is all the Council can at present do.

There cannot be a doubt of the General Assembly taking the matter into their immediate consideration, and adopting the most effectual measures for your relief.

You may assure the freemen of your county that this county will cheerfully do every thing in their power for the protection of your county.*

Directed,

To Samuel Hunter, Esqr., Lieutenant of Northumber'd County.

Ira Allen to Council, 1780.

Philadelphia, Jan'y 20th, 1780.

Honored Sirs,

I Doubt not but your Excellency, & most, if not all your Honors have heard more or less of the Controversy subsisting between the State of New York on the one, & the State of Vermont on the other Part; and as it is thought by some to indanger the Internal Peace of America, I beg leave to make a few observations thereon; and first, said Controversy was occationed by the undue influence of Governor Colden and his adhearance at the Rotten Court of Britain, in 1764, by obtaining jurisdiction over that Part of the then Pro-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 229, 234.

vince of New Hampshire, situate to the west of Connecticut River, and by the undue Exercise of the same, in laying subsequent Pattens on those antisedantly derived from New Hampshire, in Prejudice to the first Grantees & Settlers, and by the undue Exercise of law to bring aboute their vile and mercinary Purposes, by which means the Contending Parties were greatly Exasperated towards each other, and had appealed to armes before the Present Revolution.

At which time the Inhabitants of the now State of Vermont took an active Part with their Country, thinking to swallow up their old Quarrel with New York, in their General Conflict for Liberty.

Since which time said Inhabitants have assumed to themselves (amongst the Powers of the Earth) that Inestamable Blessing of Heaven, civil Government (on the same Grand, Original, Basis, or Great Rule, of Eternal Right, that the other free States of America did, and on which a number of the Present Powers of Europe revolted from the Kingdoms to which they paid allegiance), and have Governed their Intirnal & External Police by the same more than three years.

Yet the uneasy, and never-to-be-contented Citizens of New York, have Indeavoured to surprise Congress into a Determination of that Important Controversy in their favour, and as they would have it Exparta (Thereby to carry into Execution the reduction of Vermont, an Enterprise they attempted some years ago, and could not Effect, and which their own Militia seam not inclined to undertake), which has Occationed the Governor and Council of Vermont to Publish a Vindication of the Opposition of said Inhabitants to the Government of New York, and their Right to assume Government, and exhibit some of said Vindications to Congress, and to the Legislature of Each of those States, and to the Principal Officers of the Continental Army, for their Consideration.

The Citizens of Vermont view themselves virtually in Union with the other free States of America, ever since they took Ticondaroga, Crown point, &c., in favour of the United States, and have from the beginning of this War, and are still willing, to furnish their Quota of men in the field, and have offered to Congress to Pay their full Proportion of the Expence of the War, when the Policy of America will admit them a seat in Congress.

It is to be observed that this Controversy was not Occationed by the Present Revolution, But subsisted many years before, Consequently it doth not Equally Effect Congress to settle it, as tho. their own measures had given rise to it. The Citizens of Vermont will cheerfully submit to all the Disadvantages that doth, or may, attend them, by not having a seat in Congress, untill the Present troubles shall subside; Rather than to Crowde for it, while it might be thought Prejuditial to the Common weale of the America Empire; yet they consieve themselves justly intitled to a seat in Congress,

and will not sell their Birthrite for a mess of Potage, as Profane Easau did.

I am with due Respect,

your Excellencies & Honors

most obedient Hum'ble serv't,

IRA ALLEN.*

N. B. In the vindication I herewith Exhibit, there is no mention made of the clames of the States of the Massachusetts Bay, or New Hampshire, as they were not announsed to Vermont on the 23d of August last, when said vindication was Published, But will be shortly done, and Published in a similar manner.

I. A.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., & Hon'ble Council.

Indorsement,

From Ira Allen, of the State of Vermont. Read in Council, January 25. T. M., Secretary.

Monsieur Holker to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, the 23 January, 1780.

Sir,

In consequence of your application for money in behalf of the agent commissioned by the Council & your Excellency, to receive all the flour purchased for the use of the fleet, commanded by his Excellency d'Estaing, I ordered a sum of 117 thousand pounds to be paid unto William Turnbull, Esquire, I should have continued making further supplies, if a Committee of Congress had not demanded the greatest part of all the flour on hand for the use of the army, under the obligation of accounting with the state for the same, or of advancing the necessary sums to obtain a Reimplacement thereof. On the 16th or 17th November, 952 barrels were delivered in Consequence of this arrangement to the Continental Commissaries as it also appears that, since your Excellency's circular letter of the 11th November, Little or no flour has been forwarded By the State Commissioners for the use of the Navy. It Becomes doubtfull whether I can expect any farther Supplies. If this should be the Case I should be uselessly in advance with the agent of ye Council for 60 or 70 thousand pounds, since 500 barrels of flour have not yet been transmitted for his Majesty's Service, I therefore have the honor of Requesting the favor of Being informed By your Excellency what expectations I may entertain of further supplies,

* Referred to in Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 232.

& if none are to be obtained, that your Excellency will please to let me know when an order on the Treasurer of the State for Ballance of accounts will be agreeable.

I proffit with pleasure of this opportunity to subscribe myself with sincerity & Respect,

your Excellency's most
obedient & very
humble servant,

HOLKER.*

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President.

Indorsement,

Read in Council, January 25.

T. M., Secretary.

Commissioners of Virginia to Thomas Scott, 1780.

Mr. Scott,

Sir,

In answer to your application of yesterday we beg you wou'd inform his Excellency the President of Pennsylvania, that we shall ever pay the greatest respect to a recomendation of Congress as well as to an application from the executive power of Pennsylvania consistent with our duty as servants of the State of Virginia.

We do not conceive an immediate application to us (on the resolution of Congress) consistent with the rules of propriety, we rather think such application ought to be made to the Governor of Virginia under whose commission we act, until that is done and we receive directions to the contrary we think ourselves obliged to continue to act under our commission.

We are with great respect,
Sir, Your Obed^t hble Serv^ts,

Cox's Fort,
Jan'y 21st, 1780.

FRANCIS PEYTON,
PHIL. PENDLETON
JOSEPH HOLMES,

Directed.

Thomas Scott Esquire. †

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 283. See answer 26th.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 234. Also p. 68 of this.

Treasury to Council, 1780.

Treasury Office, Jan'y 24, 1780.

Gentlemen,

We find by Information from Ephraim Blaine Esqr,* Commissary General of Purchases, that some of his Agents have borrowed monies from County Treasurers, and he now wishes an Order on the State Treasurer that he may be able to fulfill the Promises of his Agents. Drafts have been made on the State for one Million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars out of seven million six hundred thousand their Quota of the sixty millions.

We suppose a Million in favor of Mr. Blaine would not be too large, and a considerable Part could be negociated without putting the County Treasurers to the Trouble of bringing in their Money, Though this mode we confess is not the most approvable in every Respect, yet we see not how it can be conveniently avoided in the present instance we shall wait your Notice before we give the warrrant, and are

Gentlemen, your most obedient
and most Humble Servants,

JOHN GIBSON,
By Order.

Directed,

His Excellency the President and the Hon'ble the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 234.

Return of Officers & Prisoners of War, 1780.

Return of Officers & Prisoners of War, under Thos. Bradford Comm'y Prisoners, for State of Pennsylvania 25th Jan'. '80.

Names.	Rank.	Vessel.	When taken.	Where Lodged.
Jacob Gatchius,	Capt'n.	Impertinent	June 10th '79.	James Smiths
Samuel Saunders,	P. Master.	do.	do.	Goal.
Zach'. Hutchins,	do.	do.	do.	do.
Peter Christian,	Passenger,	Recovery,	August 20th.	Sam'l. Swerts.
Jacob Wright,	do.	do.	do.	near Q. Burial G.
Thomas Atkinson,	Captain,	Polly,	do.	Beck's
William Irwin,	do.	Terrible,		Mr. S. Swerts
Thomas Bragg,	Passenger,	Richmond,	Septem'r 3d.	Maryland
John Bromley,	Captain,	Two Friends	do.	R. Turners
John Mason,	Passeng'r,	do.	do.	D. Bevan's
Benedict Byrne,	Captain,	Bayard,		S. Swerts
Charles Lillilleir,	Lieut't.	do.	do.	J. Lillillier
William Wayland,	2d do.	do.		Goal
Samuel Hadnot,	Cap: Mas.	do.		Goal
Walter Smith,	S.G. Master,	do.		John Patteson
Isaac Mitchinson,	Capt'n.	Molly,	Sept'r. 25th.	S. Swerts
Jonathan Cooper,	Captain,	Tryton,		do.
James Penny,	do.	Minerva,	do. 13th.	Sam'l Swert's
Rich'd Hill,	Lieut't,	do.	do. do.	Goal
George Ellis,	Surgeon,	do.	do, do.	Sam'l Swert's
Wm. Lawrence,	Capt'n.	Hope,	Octob'r 4th.	Wm. Duchee
Lawrence Lacey,	P. M'r.	Benjamin,	do. 7.	Goal
Rich'd Blake,	do.	Langolee,	do. 9.	Hackinsack
Henry Dean,	Lieut't.	do.	do.	Goal
George Hay,	M: S'man,	Anthony,		do.
Enos Daly,	P. Master,	Golden Rose		D. Bevan's
John Johnson,	Lieut't.	Mercury,		Swains
Jonath'n. F. Child.				McCormick
James Brightman.	Captain,	William,		Boyles
W. B. Dunlap, Lt.	Passenger,	do.		New York
James Powell, Cap.	do.	do.		John Richards
John Wilkie,	Captain,	Sutherland,		Goal
Peter Petrie,	Lieut't.	Mercury,		do.
Francis Dorrell,	Passenger,	Sutherland,		Labateaux
James Hunter,	Captain,	Lexey,		Carsons
Thomas Anderson,	P. M'r.	Betsey,		Goal
Johnathan Eedale,	Captain,	Polly,		J. Pembertons
58 privates.		dif't vessels.		Goal.

Wm. Scull to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Reading, January 26th, 1780.

Sir,

I obtained permission of his Excellency General Washington in September last to quit the Geographical department in which I had assisted Mr Erskine since January 1778, in hopes I might procure some establishment in my native state, as I then understood the Proprietary Estate was to be regulated, and the Land-Office opened on a new foundation. The Commander in chief and Mr Erskine have given me certificates of their approbation of my conduct as a military Surveyor, which I can produce to your Excellency at any time you would chuse to see them. I was brought up in the Surveyor General's office under my Grandfather Nicholas Scull, formerly Surveyor General of this state & have been in the practice of that business ever since, until I entered the Line, which my dangerous state of health obliged me to leave.

I should be very glad if your Excellency should think I have any pretensions to a birth in the Surveying way whenever the officers shall be arranged & that I might hope to have the honour of your Excellency's countenancing my application.

I am Sir

your Excellency's obedt humble Servt,

W. SCULL.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed President of the Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Mr. Holker, 1780.

In Council,

Philada, January 26th, 1780.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 23d* Inst. has been duty laid before the Board & Mr Turnbull the Agent directed to wait on you to give you such satisfaction on the subject as his Acquaintance with it & the Sentiments expressed by the Board will enable him to do. As we are very sensible of the Embarassments of Congress in the Article of Supplies we shall do all in our Power to conduct the Matter in Conformity to their Views & your Desires. When Mr Turnbull has ascertained the Ballance the Council will give the requested

* See page 90.

Order. As to farther Supplies we fear the late Demands of Congress will put it very much out of our Power to comply with your Desires on that Head. But as the Commissioners may have some Flour on Hand purchased on your Account we shall put it into your Disposal we must refer you to Mr Turnbull for Information of his Prospects on that Head. The Thirst for an exorbitant Price & the many Difficulties that seemed to be raised to enhance it induced us to countermand the Orders for Purchases; hoping that when the apparent Expence & Necessity ceased there would be a Reduction of Prices.

I am Sir
with much Respect & Regard
Your most Obed. Hble Serv.

Directed,
The Hon. Mr Holker.

Col. Lewis Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

Two German Deserters who left New York the 16th instant say the Garrison consists of 4 Hessian 2 Anspach & 2 English regts under the command of Genl Kniphausen. No packet lately arrived that they know of. Numbers desert now the river is frozen over. When the alarm of our people being on Staten Island reached New York, a Detachment of 50 men from each regiment was drawn out but could not effect a passage. Provisions plenty but wood scarce. Two deserters from Staten island say that two regiments arrived from Long Island the day after our people return'd to the Jerseys.

Permit me to assure you that I am with respect
Your Excellencies
most Obedt servt,
LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Janry 27th, 1780.

Directed,
To His Excellency Joseph Reed President of the State.

Board of War to Dr. Jon. Potts, 1779.

War Office, Jany. 27, 1780.

Sir,

In Answer to your Letter on the Subject of Clothing for the medical Department we inform you that were we authorized to distribute the Clothing to your Department there is none in Store for our Authority to operate upon. We never had Money or Orders from Congress to provide Cloathing for Officers either of the Line or Staff & tho we have repeatedly pressed the wants of the Officers Congress have not been pleased to inform us on the Subject. At present the State of the public Finances precludes the possibility of purchasing in sufficient Quantities & we have the greatest Reason to believe that a large Supply will speedily arrive from Europe. Perhaps these Reasons prevail with Congress for witholding their Directions on the Bussiness.

We are Sir
your obed. Servant
RICHARD PETERS,
By Order.

Directed.
Dr Jonathan Potts Director of the Hospitals.

Benj. Blyth to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Shippensburg, Jan'y ye 28, 1780.

Sir,

In my Last, which I think was on the 18th of this Instant, I mentioned to your Excellency the Difficulty that the recovering of State Property is attended with. In a Late Sute, for I Chused that way, giving the Civil Magistret full oppertunity of Executing the Law with its Penaltys, notwithstanding the offender Put Defiance both to the Magistret & Me, on this Presumtion, that the State must Prove Property, which Mode would give offenders an uportunity of Escaping with impunity. I hope the Militia Law now Framing will be Explicit on that Subject. Maney of both State & Continental Arms are unmarked but yet well known by their make; the fradant Posesar of which if put to the proof would Deliver up to Such Proper officer as might Demand them. Publick Frads are ruinous to aney State, and it must affect Every good Sitesin to see them Preveal, & Espesaly an officer whos Deuty it is to be guardeain of in his spheer of the Publick Property.

In the Late Call of the Militia from our County to Northumberland County, there was no Provision made By the Continental officers whos Business it was to suply the Troops on the Sarvice with amonition, which Case I sepose your Excelincy haith been made aquent with, which Defisancy was Suplyed by me out of Sum State amunition that was under my Care; the Quantaty was fifty Pounds of gun Powder & two hundred pounds of Leads, I give this notice on Prosumtion it may be of Sarvice in Settling State Accounts.

I am your Excelancys

most obedant Hu^b Servt,

BENJ^a BLYTH.

Directed,

His Excelancy Joseph Reed, Esqr, Presidant of the Supream Executive Council of the State of Pensylvany.

Thos. Bradford to Council, 1780.

Philadelphia, Jan'y 28th, 1780.

May it please the Council,

In Compliance with your Commands of the 26th Inst^t, I am to inform you that agreeable to your Order of decem^r last, founded on the Report of Dr. Rush, that Captain Papley was ill, I took the Captains Parole and he remained at his dwelling till I was informed by the Doctor he was perfectly recovered, and supposing that the Idea of Council was, that he should remain on Parole till his health was restored, and no longer; therefore on thought of Doctor Rush, and Knowing Captain Papley was in a family from whence several Prisoners of war had absconded, I thought it my duty to return him as soon as I was informed he was well.—As for Mrs Papley's Representation of his being in a weak Condition, it is only thrown out to deceive.

I wou'd not presume to offer my Sentiments with respect to Captain Papley's Exchange, but as Captain Armytage is said to be detained in New York, suffering on Board a Prison ship and denied the Liberty even of a Prison Yard, I would beg leave to Propose that Captain Papley shou'd be allowed to go into N. York provided Captain Armytage is first sent out in Exchange for him.

Inclosed is a list of the Prisoners of War* agreeable to your Order received a few days since.

I am,

May it please the Council,

the Councils Humble Servt,

THO^s BRADFORD,

Com. of Pris^rs.

* See page 98. Also Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 241.

Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Secretary's Office, Feb'y 1st, 1780.

Sir,

I now enclose you the Journals of Congress which will compleat the sets for your State to the first of January, 1780. Hereafter they will be printed in monthly pamphlets, which shall be regularly sent.

I take the liberty of reminding you of the request in my letter of 20th Novr last, to which I have not been honored with an answer. The request therein contained is not suggested by idle curiosity but a desire of promoting public utility and the cause of America.

I am, Sir,

with due respect,

your hum. Servt,

CHA. THOMSON.

Directed,

His Excell'y The President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office Feb'y 2, 1780.

Sir,

In 1778 Congress passed an order requiring the Board of War to collect all the military trophies belonging to the United States. In consequence thereof the Board directed Col^o Flower to collect them, but his embarrassments & want of health prevented the immediate execution of the order. The Board have lately repeated it; and request your Excellency and the hon^ble Council will cause to be delivered to Col^o Flower's order such trophies as are in your possession.*

We have the honour to be

your Excellency's most obed^t serv^t,

By order of the Board,

TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,

His Excellency the President of the State of Pensylvania.

War Office.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 242.

Pres. Reed to Pres. of Congress, 1780.

In Council,

Philad^a, February 3d, 1780.

Sir,

The Proceedings of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylv^a in the Case of Major Genl Arnold, however misrepresented by some & misunderstood by others, originated from the Complaints of the Inhabitants of the State, who apprehended themselves injured, & applied officially for Redress. The ill advised Refusal to have any Communication with the civil Authority on that Subject led to other Measures, which, however variously construed, will, we hope, produce this happy Effect, that both Civil and Military Powers will find their True Interest in preserving perfect Harmony & Correspondence, more especially upon all Inquiries tending to correct publick Abuses.—We do not think it proper to affect Ignorance of what is the Subject of publick Conversation—& the Sentence of the Court Martial leading to impose a Mark of Reprehension upon Gen. Arnold we find his Sufferings for and Services to his Country so deeply impressed on our Minds as to obliterate every opposing Sentiment, & therefore beg leave to request that Congress will be pleased to dispense with that Part of the Sentence which imposes a publick Censure & may most affect the Feelings of a brave & gallant Officer.

In the Assertion of our own Rights we would not forget the just Pretensions of others to publick Gratitude & Attention, and as we hope Gen. Arnold's Merits & Services will be remembered when all Objections to his Conduct are long forgotten, we shall find a Pleasure in preserving the Memory of the former while we endeavour to efface that of the latter. Influenced by these Considerations permit me Sir, in the Name of the Board at which I have the Honour to preside, to intreat you to lay our Request before Congress, as well as to subscribe myself with the greatest Respect & Esteem,

Sir, Your Obed.

& very Hb'ble Serv.

Col. Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

A deserter who left the guardship last friday says the Falmouth packet & Vulture sloop from Jamaica arrived four days before. The men of the guardship haul'd their cutter over the ice, & got on board the packet which now lies in the Narrows, & brings an account that it was reported in England 25,000 french had entered Hanau. Two nights after the attempt on the guard ship by Major Lee's corps, the militia brought a field piece to bear on the stern of the guard ship & killed one man, a refugee. The vessels destroyed by Maj^r Lee's party were a Schooner, a Sloop with live stock from Shrewsbury for York, & the admiral's tender. No news have been received from the fleet since they sailed.

Permit me to assure you that I am with respect

Your Excellencies

most Obed^t Servt,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

February 4th, 1780.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of State.

Pres. Reed to Nicholas Waln, 1780.

In Council,

P^a, Feby 4th, 1780.

To Mr. Nicholas Waln—

Sir,

Agreeable to my Promise I laid the Case of Daniel Pearce before the Council this morning. I believe every Individual of it pities the Case of these Persons, but there is a Difficulty in giving the desired Relief. For upon looking into the Supplement of the Militia Law, we find a power given to the Lieutenant & Sub Lieutenant, which having been exercised, we apprehend any Injury sustained thereby must be redressed in the usual Courts of Law. We find a Clause in the Law providing against Fraud & Partiality upon which we doubt not those who are injured would find every one disposed to exert themselves if the ordinary Course of Complaint was made. But the Council are very averse to judge in any summary Way of Complaints to the Redress of which the Courts of Law

are fully competent, & in which Inquiry will be made with greater Justice to both Parties & the Punishment would be exemplary.

Your own good Judgment will enable you to determine on the legal Exceptions to the Commitment, & we doubt not in the proper Place they will be duly attended to. I have only to add farther that every oppressive Execution of the Laws will meet with our Disapprobation, & that we shall be much obliged to every Person who seeing such Practices will exert himself to bring the Offenders to Punishment agreeable to the wholesome & salutary Laws in Force for that Purpose. For your Information I have sent you the Law on which Pearce has been committed, & am,

with much Esteem,

Your Obed. &

very Hble serv.*

Joshua Elder to Pres. Reed, 1780.

May it please your Excellency,

Sometime last Summer, at the Request of the Freeholders of Upper-Paxton, I attended an Election for Justices of the Peace in said District, where the People met, & very unanimously chose their Inspector & Judges, & proceeded to elect Men for Magistrates. When the Election was finished & the Numbers cast up, it appeared that Captain James Murray & James Clark were highest in Voto, but because the former lived on the south side of Peters-mountain the Majority of the Judges & Inspector wou'd not make the Report to Council.

The Inhabitants still continue much distress'd for the Benefit of the law, some of them having to come upwards of thirty Miles to Justice Green or myself.

The Election was fair & Just; I understood there had been due Notice given, as I heard no complaint at the time. I wrote the advertisements myself & desired the Constable of the Township to disperse them. The Election was held above the Mountain, & the chief part of the Voters lived there is certified, at the desire of the Electors, by

your most Obedient

& humble Servant,

JOSHUA ELDER.

Paxton 5th Feby, 1780.

Directed

To The honorable Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 244.

David Espy. to Pres Reed, 1780.

Bedford 5th February, 1780.

Sir,

I herewith send you the return of an Election of Justices held for the Township of Bedford. The Inconveniencies that we have been under for some Time past through the want of Justices sufficient to hold Courts can only be known to those who are acquainted with the scattered situation of this County. Two who lived near the Town have removed out of the County, and there is now only one besides myself within fifteen Miles of the Town, and he being Sub-Lieutenant is often abroad. The Consequence is that widows and Orphans often come from a great Distance and are either obliged to return without being able to call a Court, or they must collect the Justices from a great Distance, & I am obliged often to sit as one when it is not altogether proper.

I am convinced this Inconvenience will be remedied by one of the Gentlemen now returned being commissioned. Mr. Proctor acted as a Justice under the former Government, from the Time the County was erected and gave general satisfaction. He is a Brother to the late Counsellor of that Name. The other Gentleman I have not had the Opportunity of being acquainted with, as he is but lately come into the County; but make no doubt but that either of them will do their Duty.

Above a year ago there was a Return of an Election made from this Town of six, (It being the County Town) only two of which to wit. Samuel Davidson and myself were commissioned. The other four were George Funk, Jacob Saylor, James Bratly & Henry Wirtz, the first then did and still would decline accepting of it if he was appointed, because he does not write English well enough. The next upon the Return. Jacob Saylor, is a Man that would do no Dishoner to the Commission. He is a German and universally esteemed by the People, calm, steady, honest & sensible. I had a late Conversation with Col. Piper on the Subject, and had he been down, the Recommendation that he would give him, would satisfy Council that he is a fit Person to be appointed.

It will be a great Obligation to the Justices who live at a Distance, as well as of great service to those who may have Business at special Courts, that two such Persons as Council shall think Proper, one for the Town & one for the Township should be Commissionated as soon as possible.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,
your most obedient humble servt.
DAVID ESPY.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

☞ Favor of Col. Smith.

Brig. Gen. Wm. Irvine to Pres. Reed. 1780.

Camp near Morristown, Feb. 6th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I presume you have heard of the surprise of our Posts at Elizabethtown & Newark. I believe they were most of the men Pennsylvanians, but not one officer of ours. This with the numerous Desertions has made a deep stroke on us. I assure you, I am much alarmed & distressed, —cannot conceive what the cause is. Our Regiments will cut a bad figure if it continues long. This leads me to enquire whether any Bounties will be tried—I think several men might be got this spring. I have obtained leave to visit my family at Carlisle—shall set out tomorrow. Gen. St Clair is at Elizabethtown & I believe will remain there a week or perhaps longer.

I must once more trouble your Excellency in the Cloathing business, which I should by no means take the liberty to do could I depend on the men whose business it is. Mr. Swain went away without informing any person, & had not half completed his business. Col. Farmer has done little better, instead of sending 1200 yards of linen, he has sent only 100, with a few trifling articles which are not essentially necessary. The Calculations have been very erroneous, I suppose occasioned in some measure by the Cloth not being near so broad as mentioned in the Invoice.

On a calculation I had made this day we shall yet want the articles in the inclosed list. I request your Excellency will be so good as to order Col. Farmer to forward them with all possible expedition, as our Taylor will be Idle before they can arrive.

The Enemy were to have assembled 2000 men in 300 Sleighs at Kings Ferry last Wednesday night, perhaps with a design to effect some more surprize, some fear West Point—but I think Danbury more probable where there are about 500 men. They are really retaliating on us, however we must if possible repay them with Interest. I mean to take Philada. in my way as I return to Camp which cannot be before the last of march.

I am Dr. Sir,

With great regard & esteem

Your Excellencys most Obedt. Servt.

Wm IRVINE.

NB we cannot get even a pair of shoes except what comes through the state Cloathers hands.

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire.

CHARLES PETTIT TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Philad^a, 9th Feb^y, 1780.

Sir,

I have this morning rec^d the Draught of Congress on your Excellency & the Council of Pennsylvania, for three hundred thousand Dollars, which will be presented herewith. I should be glad to be informed as early as possible in what manner the money is to be paid, as I cannot properly make the necessary appropriations till that is done, and the numerous calls upon me will oblige me to divide it into several Parcels.

I have the Honor to be Sir,

your most obedient

humble servant,

CHARLES PETTIT,

A. Q. M. Gen'l.*

Directed,

To his Excellency the President of the State of Pennsylvania.

JOHN CONNOLLY TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Germantown, Feby 10th, 1780.

Sir,

When I was favored with enlargement in January 1777, I was further obliged by the restoration of my side-arms & Pistols. Towards the conclusion of March I returned to Philadelphia, pursuant to an Order from the Executive Council, & was very unexpectedly recommitted to close confinement. My arms, which, at this time, had been brought to the City by my servants to be cleaned, were left at my lodgings, at which place a disabled Officer then lay, who, taking upon Himself to send my Portmanteau to the New Jail, thought proper to retain the Articles mentioned, together with a Deed of Partition, then in my custody also. Some time subsequent to this Conduct, it seems He attempted an escape, in which He failed, & was again made Prisoner, when being possessed of my arms & the Deed alluded to, they were, I understand, taken from Him, & given into the charge of the Honorable the Executive Council.

This being a real state of Facts, & having done nothing personally since the period of my captivity, to have forfeited the intended civility, I flatter myself your Excellency will be pleased to order them restored. I should not have attempted to intrude so far upon your Excellency's more important Concerns, were not the Pistols &

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 242, 243.

present from a very particular Friend, which alone renders me solicitous for their Recovery.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect,

your Excellency's

most obed^t serv^t,

JN^o CONNOLLY.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Executive Council.

Col. Hazen to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp, near Morris Town, Feb'y 11th, 1780.

Sir,

Major Reid, who returned yesterday from Philadelphia to Camp, has acquainted me with his application to your Excellency for supplies of cloathing, &c., for a few officers of the Pennsylvania State, now Serving in my Reg't. I do not censure his application, because I am persuaded he was prompted to it by motives of mere Necessity; however hard his case, yet there are many other officers in the Regiment who are equally situated, and that are not entitled to any Redress from any one of the United States. The Copy of a Memorial Inclosed will shew what I have done for the Regiment at large. If, therefore, His Excellency the Commander in Chief, cannot, or if Congress will not suffer us to Serve them on equal footing with the Army, we wish to be Dismissed from their Employment. The time, I hope, is Drawing near when either a Sisation of armes or a Union of Canada, will put this Regiment on a very Different footing. Your Excellency will remember the Opposition I made to the Reduction of the Regiment in the year 1778, and I think it now a part of my Duty at this Time to oppose any Partial provision for Officers or men in it. Some new Regulations, authorized by Congress, will, I Dare say, soon take place in the army, which, I hope, will put this Regiment with the other loos Corps (not armed or provided for by any State) on proper footing, for which I am waiting with Impatience.

I have Honor to be,

your Excellencys most obed^t

and most Devoted Hum^o Servt,

MOSES HAZEN.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., Governor of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 252.

Col. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Pittsburgh, Feb'y 11th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

In my last I wrote you my reasons for evacuating Forts Armstrong & Crawford and drawing in the rangers to this post, Since which Colonel Lochry has ordered them to Hannah's Town & Fort Wallace. I am at a loss to determine whether he was influenced by ambition or by Interest to call them from hence, but the step was very imprudent & seemed calculated to prevent me from recruiting them during the War agreeable to Instructions from his Excellency the commander in chief (and circumstanced as we are) to put it out of the power of the Commissary to supply them.

Since the removal of the Rangers from hence several Letters have passed between Col: Lochry & myself, Copies* of which I take the liberty to transmit for your perusal, and hope those from me will prove satisfactory. I likewise inclose a copy of a letter to Capt: Clark and his answer, also copy of an order to Capt: Erwin and a copy of an insolent Letter I received from Capt: Campbell.

Capt: McIntire was much to blame for not making you particularly acquainted with his errand, as I repeatedly charged him to do. The Clothing remains at the foot of the Hill, and the Troops here are suffering for want of many articles, nor do I know that they can be brought 'till some time in the Spring, Capt: Finley is arrived and informs me that the Snow is four feet deep upon the Mountains.

The recruiting Service is very dull, & the Season is so very severe that the parties cannot travil. I sincerely wish to see a reinforcement from the main Army, for I am really apprehensive of a visit from Niagara, and this Fort is not tenable for a small number of Men.

Capt: Erwin upon his first arrival at this post informed me that his Company consisted of forty five men, but when I required a return from his Subalterns they returned only twenty three, and laughed at what their Capt: reported and declared they knew of no such number of men belonging to the Company. I have several reasons to induce me to entertain a very indifferent opinion of Capt: Erwin.

By one of our prisoners who lately made his Escape from the Wyandots, & who has frequently been at Detroit, I am informed that the new Fort erected there is very strong. The walls fifteen feet thick & very high, with a wide deep Ditch surrounding it—the Barracks are sunk in the ground so deep that the Roofs can scarce be seen from without—that the Garrison consists of 450 Regulars and that the Enemy have 1800 men besides a great number of Indians at Niagara; I conceive an appearance of an Expedition up

* See pages 65–69.

the Susquehannah River would be a great means of preserving the frontier of our State.

His Excellency the Commander in chief has promised me a reinforcement of Regulars provided circumstances would admit of his detaching Troops from the main Army. Should that with some Artillery arrive early in the Spring, I shall be able to chastise some of the hostile Indians and probably possess myself of Detroit, but to act on the Defensive with the few Troops I at present command will answer no salutary purpose. The Delawares continue their professions of Friendship, and talk of coming to settle nearer to us. If they do I will make them more usefull if possible.

Should any Troops be raised for the Defence of Westmoreland and the other Frontier Counties of our State I trust they will be raised for a longer time than those under Capt^ns Erwin & Campbell, for they have been raised and subsisted at a great Expence, & their service has been but small.

As soon as the weather will permit I intend to detach a proportion of the troops to Forts Armstrong & Crawford to cover that part of the Frontier. Please to present my respectfull Compliments to Col^o Bayard.

I have the honor to be,

your Excellency's most obed^t Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Directed,

His Excell^y Govr Reed.

George Stevenson to Council, 1780.

Carlisle, 12th February, 1780.

Sir,

Some years since the late Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, when disposing of their Lands near this Town, were pleased to grant about 200 ~ Part of it, to the Revd Daniel Batwel, who, at that Time, was the episcopal Missionary from the Society, in England, for propagating the christian Faith in Parts beyond the Seas, to York and Cumberland Counties: the Land was surveyed for him, and he requested me to take Care of it, and prevent the Inhabitants of Carlisle from cutting his timber, which Trust I undertook, and have endeavoured to discharge ever since.

Soon after the Declaration of Independency the Parson became an active Tory, was apprehended by a Warr^t from the Committee of Cumberland Co^ty, and confined in York Goal; after Congress removed to York, he got Permission, of that honorable Body, to

remove, with his Family, to New York, which he did, after having disposed of his personal Estate.

The Timber on his Land suffered very little Damage until these four last Weeks, whilst I was attending the Courts, a Number of People have cut and destroyed the Wood off above 30 ac of it, against those Offenders I have brought Suits in the Parson's Name, and stop'd them from farther Destruction: Now, Sir, if the Parson be proscribed, and his Land forfeited to the State, my Suits are wrong, otherwise right. Your Information how this Matter is, will greatly oblidge,*

Sir,

your most obedient

H^ble Servt,

GEO: STEVENSON.

P. S. I recd y^r Letter of Decr 7th 7 Weeks after it was written. I have not seen Major Boggs since it came to hand, therefore have not yet sent a Notice to Mr Peters.

G. S.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esqr, Secretary, Philadelphia.

Col. Nicola to Sec'y Matlack, 1780.

Feb'y 12th, 1780.

S^r,

I am informed that this day the demand for the equivalent allowed in lieu of rations and enumerated articles is to be laid before the Hon^l Council, I must therefore request you will present the inclosed, and you'll oblige,

S^r,

your most obed^t serv^t,

LEWIS NICOLA.

Directed,

To Col. Matlack, or the acting Secretary to the Hon^l Executive Council.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 297.

Pres. Reed to Col. Brodhead, 1780.

In Council
Philad^a February 14th, 1780.

To Colonel Brodhead,
Sir,

Capt. Campbell who commanded one of the Companies of Rangers raised last Spring for the Protection of the Frontiers of Pennsylvania has lately attended our Board with a representation of the Affairs of his Company. Col Lochry the Lieutenant of Westmoreland County has also transmitted sundry Letters received from you respecting the same Companies with his Answers.* Your Appointment to the present Command was a most desirable Event to the Authority of the State, as we considered your Connection with us & natural Attachment to the State to afford the most substantial Grounds of Harmony & Expectation that you would on all occasions promote the Interests & Welfare of its Inhabitants. These happy Prospects we had endeavoured on our Part to improve by a careful attention to the Comforts & Interests of your Command of which we gave you the must substantial Proofs in the Cloathing & Supplies forwarded you from Time to Time. We cannot therefore but lament this Change of Prospect, for without entering into any Discussion of the Causes of Dispute it is easy to see that the Friendship we had endeavoured to cultivate between Fort Pitt & the County of Westmoreland is most materially interrupted & that unless some happy Measures of Conciliation are adopted there is little Probability of that Union of Sentiment & Action so essential to the publick Welfare in Time of great & general Danger. Such measures we have recommended to the Inhabitants of that County & such we must recommend to you. We have tho' much pressed declined taking any Measures for restoring the Men enlisted into the 8th Pennsylv^a Regiment out of the rangers Companies before the Expiration of the Term of Service, but at the same Time we think it our Duty to acquaint you that we cannot esteem the Inlistment under these Circumstances proper for if they might be taken from their Officers one Month before their Discharge they Might have been taken at any Time & the very Design of their Inlistment frustrated Still less can we approve the refusing the Companies Provisions, which must have in a great Measure destroyed their Usefulness & made them a Burthen to the Country instead of a Benefit. And we doubt not on due Reflection you will admit the Measures to have been hasty & in their Consequences prejudicial to the publick. Your Zeal to inlist them we highly commend & had you engaged them so that at the Expiration of their Term you could have turned them into your Regim^t. we should have thought it the Duty of the Officers to have promoted your men by any Means in

* See page 65–69.

their Power. We observe in your Letter of the 2d Jany to Col. Lochry you express yourself to the Effect that you do not know of any Powers the President has to discharge or reenlist the Men, if you mean any Powers vested in him as an Individual it is readily agreed no such Powers exist nor was it attempted to exercise any but in Conjunction with the Council, it was supposed he was fully authorized to discharge the Men at any Time the publick service would admit. Not being disposed to assume Powers to which we are not entitled we hope the Officers connected with the State will not easily suppose such a Case much less suffer it to influence their Actions. But when they have reasonable Doubt we shall on proper Application endeavour to satisfy and remove them.

We have carefully avoided expressing our sentiments with Respect to any of the above Points to Col. Lochry, or any of the Gent. of Westmoreland for as we retain a great personal Respect to your Character & Services we impute what has happened rather to Inadvertency than Intention, and therefore would by no means lessen your Weight & Influence in your Command or its Neighbourhood. On the other Hand we shall seek Occasions to shew our Attention & Regard.

I am Sir,

Your Obed Hbbl.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, Feby 15, 1780.

Sir,

The board have been honored with your favor of yesterday. In answer to which I am directed to inform your Excellency & the honorable Council, that the several return, which have been transmitted to Council from time to time together with the return delivered yesterday to Mr Secretary Matlack, contain as perfect a state of the troops of Pennsylvania, attached to the additional & Independent Corps, as can at present be furnished from this Office; the whole of the returns of these Corps not having yet been reed; tho' there are not more than three or four remaining, of which Col. Flowers's is the most considerable & that is now preparing, & will be sent as soon as finished.

I inclose a list of the returns already forwarded to Council, & have the honor to be with the highest respect.

Y^r Excellency's most Obed. Hble Serv.

By ord of the board,

BEN STODDERT Sec^y.

Directed,

Public service. His Excellency, The President of Pennsylvania.
(War Office.)

Pres. Reed to Col. of Batallions, 1780.

Market Street Feb. 17. 1780.

Sir,

The present Prospect of publick Affairs & the approaching Season makes it highly necessary to prepare for every Event, & particularly that the Arms belonging to the State in the Hands of the Militia should be called in, in order to be examined & repaired. As there may also be a Change of some Officers the ensuing Season it is the more necessary to do it while the present Officers continued who have received the Arms & distributed them. You will therefore on Receipt hereof be pleased to give the necessary Directions that all the publick Arms now in the Hands of your Battalion be delivered to you or your Order that Mr. Stites the State Commissary may take them under his Charge & employ the necessary Workmen to put them in good Order.

As your Exertions herein will be very much depended on your Regard to the Publick does not leave the least Room to doubt you will cheerfully undertake this necessary Piece of Business.

I am Sir,
Your most Obed Hble Serv.

1st. Battalion,		Col. Bradford or in his Absence the command[g] Officer.
2d.	"	Col. Bayard or &c.
3d.	"	Col. Well or &c.
4th.	"	Col. Delany or &c.
5th.	"	Col. Copperthwaite or &c.
6th.	"	Col. Knox.
7th.	"	Col. Eyres of Artill[y]. or &c.

Pres. Reed to Delegates of Connecticut in Congress, 1780.

Gentlemen:

At a late Conference between a Committee of the Assembly now sitting, & the Council of this State, there appeared a general Desire to know what Appearance there was of an amicable & friendly Settlement of the Dispute between this State & Connecticut respecting the Lands at Wyoming; in Consequence of the Propositions made by the House of Assembly at their last Sitting, & delivered to one of the Delegates of Connecticut to be forwarded to his Excell[y] Gov. Trumbull.

The Gentlemen who comprised the above Conference having also expressed a Desire to confer with you on this Subject, I am desired to communicate the same to you, referring the Time to you. The Council Chamber is supposed to be a convenient Place, as the Committee is pretty large. You will be pleased to favor me with an Answer, that I may give notice to the Members of Assembly, & am,

Gentlemen, with great
Respect & Regard, your
obed. & very Hbbl. Serv.*

Indorsed,

1780, February 17th. To Delegates of Connecticut in Congress.

Sec'y Matlack to Thos. Hale, 1780.

Philad^a, Feb'y 18, 1780.

Sir,

The General uneasiness which prevails among the people in consequence of an apprehension of your having been concerned in speculations while the monies of the state are supposed to be in your hands, has induced the Council to appoint Dr Gardner & Mr. Whitehill to confer with you on this subject.

I am directed to acquaint you, that the Genl of this Committee request you will meet them at the Council Chamber to morrow morning, at nine o'clock. I am, with due respect, Sir,

your humble servant,

T. M., Sec'y.†

Mr Thos^s Hale.

Delegates of Connecticut to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

The proposition referred to in your Excellency's letter of yesterday, was duly transmitted to the Governor of the State of Connecticut; to which their delegates in Congress have yet received no answer.—They are ready, however, to receive any communication relative to the Subject of it, from the Committee of the State of Pensylvania which they may think proper to make, & to attend for

* See answer, February 18.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 256–261.

that purpose at the council chamber this evening at 6 o'Clock, or such other time as may be more convenient for the Committee.

We are, Sir,
with much respect,
Your Excellency's
most obed^t, humb^l Serv^ts,
ROGER SHERMAN,
OLIVER ELLSWORTH.

Directed,
His Excellency President Reed, Philadelphia.

Pres. Reed to Edmund Physic, 1780.

In Council,
Philad^a, February 19th, 1780.

Sir,

Pursuant to an Act of Assembly passed the last Session, entitled an Act for vesting the Estates of the late Proprietaries of Pensylvania in this Commonwealth, & particularly the Fifteenth Section of s^d Act, it becomes my Duty to demand of you as Receiver General under the late Proprietaries, the Books, Certificates, Orders & other Documents, Instruments, Records, Writings, and Seals belonging to said Office; and that the same be delivered to Timothy Matlack, Esq., Secretary of this Board.

I am, Sir,
Your Obed., Hble. Serv.,
Joseph Reed, President.*

Thomas Smith to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

If public conduct misrepresented, & intentions misunderstood, were sufficient reasons for one to be silent in all public affairs, I should long ago have declined all share in them, but circumstances often occur when it would be criminal to be silent or neuter; if any misrepresentation of mine can be the means of saving the Life of the meanest Citizen, I shall think myself amply paid for more undeserved obloquy than I ever met with.

My anxiety for the safety of the frontiers, my having been witness

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII, page 257.

to so many scenes of Distress that thousands of families have had to struggle with, for two or three years past, will, I hope, plead my excuse for taking this liberty.

Your Excellency need not be informed that retaliation is a fundamental Law amongst the Indians, & seems to take place even of self preservation. They have been severely chastized last summer, & the miseries they will undergo this winter in consequence of it, will render them desperate, & they will certainly make their last effort as soon as the season will permit, or at least they will pay us in kind; and the People on the Frontiers have been so much harassed for these several years past, that they can make but a very feeble resistance; many of them fled into the interior Counties, & rented Places, which rendered those who remain the weaker; without speedy assistance they cannot possibly stand it, but must abandon their settlements on the first invasion.

It would undoubtedly be deemed presumption in me to give my opinion on the mode of defence. I am sensible that I am a very incompetent Judge—five Companies were raised last year for that purpose, but, tho', I believe the officers who were appointed to Command them, did every thing in their Power, yet they did not seem to afford so much protection to the Inhabitants as could have been wished, & this I doubt will generally be the case with temporary Troops; most of the mischief will be done before they can be ready for the Field, & the Expence is certainly more than an equal number of permanent Soldiers. To call out the Militia against Indians is liable to equal inconveniences; not one half are fit for that service, & they are scarcely arrived at the Place where the service is to be performed before their Time is expired, putting out of the Question the expence, & the inconveniencies that we have already experienced to result from calling out Farmers from their Farms.

I believe, that at this Time no Money will procure a sufficient Number of Men for the defence of the Frontiers even for a season; pardon me, therefore, if I suggest that if the Legislature was to offer a bounty in Land to such as would engage *during the War* for the defence of the frontiers against the Indians, & to be employed in that service only, & its faith Pledged that they should not be called away on any pretence whatever, & a certain portion of Cloathing given them. I think something like this would be more effectual than any other Plan that occurs to me; for there are many young fellows who are complete woodsmen, that are eager to engage against the Indians, if they had any security of such a reward at the end of the war; they are perhaps fitter for that service than veteran Troops, capable to take the Indians in their own way; but they cannot for a considerable Time be brought to like the regular service, nor will they engage without they have the most explicit assurance that they shall be employed only against the Indians.

On every occasion that I have ever applyed to your Excellency,

I have always found you so ready to do every thing in your Power to defend us from our savage foe, that I need not urge you on this occasion, it is sufficient for me to suggest the necessity of speedy exertions. I rest firmly assured that nothing will be left undone for the protection of those who stand so much in need of it. I wish it was in their power to co-operate effectually with the assistance that may be sent to them from the interior parts of the Country; their own exertions must be feeble through want of Provisions. I am really afraid of a famine on the frontiers before harvest; the hard winter has added to the scarcity that was the natural consequence of their being invaded every seed Time and Harvest for years Past.

I am your most
obedient Humble Servant,
THOMAS SMITH.

Philadelphia, February 22d, 1780.

Directed,
To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

Pres. Reed to Thomas Hale, 1780.

Sir,

You can be no stranger to the Opinion of your having used the publick money in speculation the general Dissatisfaction which prevails respecting your Conduct. The Council, therefore, think it best for you to pay immediately to the Treasurer the Money which remains in your Hands, which, by your accounts, appears to be £79,412 5*s.* 10*d.* This will have a good Effect to check the general complaints, and enable the Council to do you such Justice as upon farther Inquiry your Conduct shall merit. The Council think you ought to do this by Friday at farthest, but if you do it before it will be better.

I am Sir,
your obed. h'ble ser.,
JOS. REED.*

Directed,
To Mr. Thomas Hale.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 261–263.

Pres. Reed to Col. Henry, 1780.

Sir,

I send you herewith the Letters respecting the Arms, & shall be obliged to you on all Occasions to suggest what may be necessary or useful for the Militia Service, & which the great Multiplicity of Business I am engaged in may occasion my omitting.

& am with much Esteem,

your Obed. H'ble ser.

Directed,

To Colonel William Henry.

Genl. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Head Quarters, Morris Town 23d Feby, 1780.

Sir,

I had last night the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of the 16th with the papers you have been pleased to refer to me. There is certainly a good deal of weight in the observations and objections which Colo. Hazen has made, and it were very much to be wished that the supplies of Cloathing and necessaries in every instance were perfectly equal to the officers & men respectively throughout the army; but as these from the nature of our present establishment proceed from different sources, I do not know how the inconveniences complained of are to be remedied. It has been the pleasure of Congress by repeated Acts, and by a very recent one, to recommend it to the States to provide for the Officers & men belonging to them in the additional & other Corps not originally apportioned on them, in the same manner they provide for those of their State Lines. This being the case, and as they have no other mode of relief, or at least that I know of, I do not see that it can be objected to in the instance of Major Reed and the other officers who have addressed your Excellency. It can only be considered that they are more fortunate than the rest belonging to their regiment. Nor is this discrimination peculiar to Colo. Hazen's Corps. There are many others in the same disagreeable predicament. It holds extensively between the Troops of different Lines; for while the officers & men of some enjoy most necessary comforts, those of others are destitute of any. I return your Excellency the papers again, & have the honor to be

with the most perfect respect

& esteem, your Excellency's

most obe't Servant,

G° WASHINGTON.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to James Claypoole, Sheriff, 1780.

In Council,
Philada., February 24th, 1780.

Sir,

The Board having considered your Representation of the State of the Prison, the importance it is to the publick that the prisoners should be safely kept for Tryal & punishment, and also the expence that would attend hiring Persons expressly for a Guard are of opinion that publick Safety & publick Oeconomy will both be consulted by applying to the Wardens to remove the Watch from the Court House for the present to the Prison Room, and as an Inducement to the High Constable to comply with the Direction of the Wardens, this Board will make some reasonable Allowence to him as well as for an additional Person or two for this special Purpose.

I am Sir,
Your Hble Serv.

Francis Swaine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Trapp, Philad^a County, Feb. 24th, 1780.

Sir,

I have the Honor of transmitting Your Excellency and the Honorable Council returns of the Officers and Soldiers Clothing Issued by me, in Camp, having received receipts for every article.

I drew from the Continental Store in Morristown for our troops fourteen hundred & Sixty five pair of horse Shoes, and for Colo. Procters Regiment forty eight Coats, forty eight Vests, five pair breeches, fifty seven Shirts, fifty seven pair shoes, & sixty five hats, which I have not inserted in the return.

I have the Honor to be
Your Excellencys & the Honorable Councils,
Most Obedient & very humble Servant,
FRANCIS SWAINE.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr, President at Philadelphia.

Chas. Hall to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lancaster, Feby ye 26th, 1770.

Sir,

Yesterday I made Seizure of the tract of Land in Mannor Township known by the Name of the Indian Town, said to contain about five Hundred Acres; the Roads has been very bad prevented my doing it sooner. This Morning Mr. John Musser of this Town came to me seemingly much displeased that private Property should be Struck at, and drew a paper out of his pockett, which he said was an Abstract from the Oreginal Deed from the Chief Sachims to Mr. Penn for the Lands purchaced from them at the treaty at Fort Stanwix, wherein this tract is perticularly Discribed and Conveyed to Mr. Penn. He said he was much Amazed I had not Received orders not to Proceed, as he had shewn the Afforesaid paper to your Excellency and the Honourable Council, who, he Said, was satisfied. The Land is now in the Hands of tennents who have worked it on Shares and have lived there since the Year 1771, and say they have made Sundrey improvements in Buildings and fences, which they hope they will be Allowed for. As the season is now approaching that the Land shou'd be prepared for Spring Grain, I shall be glad if Council will send me instructions, if Possible by the Bearer of this, how I am to proceed with the tennents; but if the Land is to be Rented at a Certain Rent I shall be exceedingly obliged to Council to Name the Rent and Let me have the first Offer.

I have Settled my Accompt with the Commissioners Appointed by Law to Settle the Accompts of the Commissioner for Confiscated Property, and have their Certificate that I am in Debt one Hundred and four Pounds, seven shillings, to the State. I have Paid to the State Treasurer Eighty Eight thousand four Hundred and forty Nine Pounds, one shilling, and three pence.

I am your Excellency's

Very Humble Servent,

CHARLES HALL.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President, Philadelphia.

☞ favour Col^l Crawford.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XI., p. 265.

Col. Brodhead to Richard Peters, 1780.

Pittsburgh, Feb'y 27th, 1780.

Sir,

Your hon'ble Board having by your Letter of the 30th of last August favored me with its opinion relative to some Houses not occupied by the Inhabitants about this Fort: And I having received Intelligence from Sandusky, that at least two thousand of the Enemy Indians which were driven into Niagara were encamped on the plains near that place, conceived that the Enemy with the view of preserving their Interest with them & to distress us might be premeditating an Expedition against this Garrison so soon as the Alleghany should be filled with a sufficient Quantity of Water to favor the attempt and as the Enemies approach by Water would be exceeding rapid, I thought it indispensably necessary to post a few Men in a House occupied by Edward Ward & Thomas Smallman Esquires. This House is situate on high Ground within forty yards of one of the Bastions & commands the Cannon in two Bastions & all the Glacis on the side next to it, and being barracaded would greatly contribute to the Defence of this Post, Wherefore I Issued an order to the Ass^t Quarter Master (the Dep'y I have not seen since last March) Likewise Orders for the Maryland Corps (consisting of about twenty Men present) to take Post in that House, Copies of which Orders I take the Liberty to enclose for your Perusal.

You will see with what Tenderness I endeavoured to treat those Men, although the Suspicions of their want of Attachment to our Cause are numerous & I believe well founded. When the Assistant Quarter Master waited upon them with the Order they immediately removed their effects to places provided, in Consequence of a conversation I had with them, which was intended to convince them of the Necessity of the proposed Measure But when the Troops marched to the post assigned them Mr Ward & Mr Smallman stood in the Door to prevent their Entring the House. The Troops did after some Altercation enter and have remained there untill now.

Mr Ward soon after applied to the Court of Yoghagania County for a Jury to enquire into what he supposed to be a forcible Entry & Detainer which was accordingly summoned & admitting the said Thomas Smallman to be a legal Witness found accordingly.—The Sheriff then demanded Possession for the Claimant which was refused by the Officer and the Sheriff was sent to arrest me in an action of Trespass at the Suit of Mr Ward to which I refused to Answer because it did not appear to me that they had a proper Jurisdiction. The Matter lay over untill now I am served with what is termed a common order which directs me to appear or Judgment is to be had against me on Default—I was informed that Mr Ward had been made ashamed of his Conduct & that the Action was withdrawn &

therefore did not mention the Matter in my last. But I have now employed Council to put in a Plea to the Jurisdiction of that Court & otherwise to procrastinate the Trial untill I could inform your hon'ble Board of the malicious Steps taken by Mr Ward and receive your Directions relative thereto.

The Delaware Indians continue their friendly Professions and I hope to make them usefull the ensuing Campaign. Their chief Warriors are very desirous of having commissions in our Service and alledge that the Enemy Indian Captains have british Commissions, I should be glad to indulge them, but must submit the Propriety of the Measure to the Wisdom of my Superiors.

Public Credit never was so low in this District as at present, and the Contractors have stretched their private Credit, but with every Effort I fear the public Horses will perish before the next Grass unless a Sum of Money can be furnished to purchase Forage.

The great Depth of Snow upon the Alleghany & Laurel Hills has prevented our Getting every kind of Stores, nor do I expect to get any now untill the latter End of April.

I have the honor to be with perfect respect

Your most obedt Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD,

Colo. command'g, W. D.

Directed,

Hon'ble Richard Peters Esquire.

Col. Brodhead to Pres. Reed 1780.

Fort Pitt, Feb'y 28th, 1780.

Dear Sir

It is some time since the Court of Yoghagania took upon its self to order a Jury of Enquiry to determine whether or not I had committed a trespass in stationing some men in a House in the tenure of Edward Ward & Thomas Smallman Esqrs Justices of that Court, for the Defence of the Garrison & now I am served with what is called a Common order to appear before that Court or in Default Judgment for Damages to the amount of £5000 will go against me.

I have employed Council to put in a plea of Jurisdiction & otherwise to procrastinate the trial until I could receive Directions from the Hon'ble Board of War and I shall be greatly oblidged to you for your advice in the matter. I once was determined to let them proceed without taking any Notice of their determinations untill they came to execute them & then send them off with a flea in the ear but lest any reflection should be cast on me for interfering in a territorial dispute I considered the latter Step as the most eligible.

Should our State determine to extend its Settlements over the Alleghany River I should be happy to have an early hint of it because it will be in my power to serve several of my Friends.

I have some times thought of proposing to the Executive Council & Assembly the purchasing the late Proprietaries Manor at this place. But it might perhaps be as well for me to be concerned with some Gent^n of my acquaintance in a purchase I conceive it will within a few years after a peace is established be one of the first places for Business of any inland Town in America.

Should your Excellency be of opinion with me and incline to take in a few Gent^n into partnership in such a purchase I shall be happy in the connexion.

My son will have the honor to wait upon you with this Letter, and as he is out of employment and it is said that Colo. Geo. Morgan will not serve under Mr. Blaine, the present Comm'y Genl, I shall esteem it as a particular favor if you will be pleased to recommend him to do the Duty of Deputy in this District & I will be answerable for his Conduct.

I have the honor to be
with the most perfect regard & esteem
your Excellencies most obed^t & Hble Servt,
DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Directed,
His Excell'y Jos. Reed Esqr.

Draughts of Congress on the States, 1780.

Nov. 24, '79.	On the Treasurer of the State of	N. York for G. Green,		$617,000
Dec. 14, "	Ditto,	Maryland, J. Wadsworth,		700,000
"	Do.	Pennsylvania,	do.	100,000
"	Do.	New Jersey,	do.	200,000
"	Do.	N. York,	do.	400,000
"	Do.	Connecticut,	do.	600,000
"	Do.	Rhode Island,	do.	100,000
"	Do.	Massachusets Bay,	do.	800,000
"	Do.	New Hampshire,	do.	300.000
"	Do.	Virginia,	do.	1,600,000
"	Do.	N. Carolina,	do.	400,000
20th,	Do.	N. Jersey,	do.	250,000
22d,	Do.	Pennsylvania, G. Green,		200,000
"	Do.	Maryland,	do.	400,000
"	Do.	Virginia,	do.	600,000
"	Do.	North Carolina,	do.	200,000
"	Do.	Connecticut,	do.	150,000
"	Do.	N. York,	do.	400,000
"	Do.	Delaware,	do.	50,000
Jan. 1st, 1780.	Do.	N. Hampshire, J. Wadsworth,		300,000
"	Do.	Massachusets Bay,	do.	1,000,000
"	Do.	Rhode Island,	do.	75,000
"	Do.	Connecticut,	do.	1,500,000
"	Do.	Pennsylvania,	do.	250,000
"	Do.	Delaware,	do.	75,000

Jan. 1st, 1780.	On the Trs'r of the State of	Maryland,	J. Wadsworth,	$500,000
"	Do.	Virginia,	do.	750,000
"	Do.	N. Carolina,	do.	750,000
3d, "	Do.	Pen. B'd of War,	C. Howard,	1,000,000
4th, "	Do.	S. Carolina,	W. Palfrey,	2,000,000
5th, "	Do.	Ditto,	Hall & Jervais,	1,000,000
14th, "	Do.	Pennsylvania,	G. Green,	200,000
20th, "	Do.	Massachusets,	E. Blane,	500,000
" "	Do.	Rhode Island,	do.	175,000
" "	Do.	Connecticut,	do.	1,550,000
" "	Do.	Delaware,	do.	175,000
24, "	Do.	N. Y. in favour of	E. Blane,	183,000
" 25, "	Do.	Pennsylvania,	ditto,	1,000,000
" 27, "	Do.	ditto,	Wm. Henry,	100,000
Feb. 7, "	Do.	N. Carolina,	S. Moore,	30,000
" 8, "	Do.	Pennsylvania,	G. Green,	300,000
" 12, "	Do.	Virginia,	Georgia,	300,000
" 28, "	Do.	Rhode Island,	G. Green,	80,000
" "	Do.	Virginia,	do.	150,000
" "	Do.	Delaware,	do.	50,000
" "	Do.	N. York,	do.	150,000

New Hampshire,	600,000
Massachusets,	2,300,000
Rhode Island,	430,000
Connecticut,	3,800,000
New York,	1,750,000
N. Jersey,	450,000
Pennsylvania,	3,150,000
Delaware,	175,000
Maryland,	1,100,000
Virginia,	3,400,000
North Carolina,	1,555,000
South Carolina,	3,000,000
	$21,710,000

Indorsed,

Draughts of Congress on the several States from Nov. 24, 1779, to Feb. 28, 1780, inclusive.

Board of War to President Reed, 1780.

War Office, March 7, 1780.

Sir,

We have received from the Commissary General of purchases, the most distressing Accounts of the State of the Magazines of Provisions at Camp. The Flour on Hand will not serve the Troops above ten Days, & there is little Prospect of *Continental* Supplies of this Article. If a similar Famine to that which has already happened this Winter should take place, the Army must inevitably disband, as the Vicinity of the Camp is exhausted of its Provisions, & indeed the whole State of Jersey is distressed by their Exertions for the Supply of the Troops.. We have, therefore, no Hopes of any Resource in Case of

Necessity to be drawn from the State of New Jersey. Conscious of the Readiness ever shown by your Excellency to assist in relieving the Distress of the Army, we have thought it proper to inform you of the Matter, & to request that you will lay the Information herein given before the Council, or (if prudent to make it so public) before the Assembly, that if any Relief can be given by this State in the Article of Flour, it may be afforded, & the impending Misfortunes of the Army prevented.

We have the Honour to be,
with the greatest Respect & Esteem,
your very obedt Servants.
RICHARD PETERS.
By order.*

Directed.—On public Service.
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President, &c.
(War Office.)

F. A. Muhlenberg to President Reed, 1780.

Sir,

Mr. Melsheimer, formerly Chaplain to a Regiment of Dragoons in the british Service, having made Application to me, I beg Leave to assure your Excellency that I have known him well ever since he has been in this State, & have always found him to be a true Friend to American Liberty, & desirous of remaining in this Country. He has to my certain Knowledge sacrificed his little all, together with every Prospect of future Promotion in his native Country. He has hitherto officiated in some small Congregations near Lebanon, Lancaster County; but unfortunately for him, was some Time ago suspected of interfering in an old Dispute between the Members of the German Luth. Congregation at Lebanon, which occasioned one party of them to apply to the Honble. Judge Atlee, to have him removed. He assures me he never meddled either with the one or the other Party, and is willing to bind himself not to interfere in their Church Disputes, nor to officiate there, unless by the unanimous Consent of both Parties.

I ask Pardon for drawing your Excellencies Attention from more important Concerns, & have the Honour to be, with the most perfect Esteem & Regard,

Your Excellencies most
obedient & very humble Servt,
F. A. MUHLENBERG.

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsilvania.
Indorsed, Mar. 7, 1780.

* See page 182.

Commrs. of Taxes for Berks Co. to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Reading, March 8th, 1780.

Sir,

We beg leave to lay the Inclosed Letter of Jas Biddle Esqr before the Honble Council, and beg their advise thereon, as Several very Obstinate Inhabitants in this County have positive refused to make any return for raising the Supplies for 1779 which this Board took as an Concealment of the Effects in fact and accordingly Taxed them fourfold. And now the Attorneys of Law think to make a Handle thereof, to the great delay of Collecting future Taxes and Irritating the good people, (for if the Money must be returned to those by them Called Tories,) they will be very dissattisfyed. We are Sir

Your most Obt

Humble Servants,

JOHN KIRLIN,
ADAM WITMAN,
THOs. JONES, Junr.
Commrs.*

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqr President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Hon. Wm. Atlee to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lancaster, the 8th March, 1780.

Sir,

I am honoured with your Letter of the 3d instant and shall agreeable to the request of Council issue warrants and endeavour to have John Rein and John Myer's immediately apprehended.

As to Rein there have been several unsuccessful attempts to take him & I must prevail on the Sheriff to send some Person to execute the warrants (against both of them,) who is unknown to the inhabitants of the part of the Country where they lurk. Myer's is but lately returned I believe and as I had some reason to think the Chief Justice had a List of James's Corps of Light Horse, I wrote to him some Days agoe to know if Myer's name was among them

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 275.

intending to have him taken. As to the Traffick carried on from Rein's Mill, I had hints some time since, that a quantity of Flour had been taken from thence to Newport, and mentioned it in a Letter to the Chief Justice, with the suspicions of the informers that it was intended for the Enemy and as he was in my opinion well acquainted with the People of that part of the Country proposed to him to get some trusty person there to have an Eye upon the Flour part of which was thought to be stored with one Allen in that place. The Mill is a considerable distance from Lancaster, and one of the Persons you suppose to be concerned, to wit, Mr Crawford, is the Person whom I shou'd least have suspected & shou'd have requested to attend to what was doing there, as he has been a Colonel of our Militia & I thought a steady *honest* Whig but shall now say nothing of the matter to him & shall give every attention in my power to what is going forward there.

If your Secretary cou'd furnish me with a List of the proscribed Persons, it wou'd much oblige me mine has been handed about at the Courts till lost to me.

I am Sir

your most obedt humbl servant,

WILL. ATTLEE.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

favour of
Wm Parr Esquire.

Pres. Reed to Commrs. of Taxes, 1780.

Gentlemen,

The Council have been informed that you have stopp'd the Collection of the Taxes with Respect to those Persons who have declined making a Return of their Property agreeable to the Act of Assy & We cannot by any Means approve of this Measure as it must have very pernicious Consequences to our public Affairs. It is therefore the clear Opinion of this Board that untill the Assembly shall think proper by another Law to alter that now in Force (which we do not understand they intend to do) you ought to proceed agreeable to the Atty General's Opinion leaving any Person who may think himself injured to seek his Remedy in the Courts of Law where only a proper Construction can be made. And you may be assured of the utmost Support of the Board in a firm & resolute Discharge of your Duty

in this & all other Respects. It is of course the Sense of the Board that you as soon as possible recall any Orders given to stay the Proceedings of the Collectors on the other Hand that you urge a speedy Collection & Payment. We are clearly of Opinion that any Discrimination will embarass this important Business & that the executive Branches of Governmt of every kind ought not to exercise any Discretion or Judgment in suspending the Execution of any Law but leave the Construction to the Courts of Law & where the Law is plain the inconveniences or Hardships to the Legislature.

I am.

Indorsed,
March 9, 1780.

Arch'd McClean to Pres. Reed, 1780.

York, March 10th, 1780.

May it please your Excellency,

Your Excellency's Letter of the 16th Day of December last I acknowledge to have received shortly after by the Hands of Mr McCallister, Together with the several Papers accompanying the same, and immediately on the Receipt thereof, distributed the several Papers agreeable to your Excellency's Directions, and which, had not the great Fall of Snow and the Extream rigorous Season so shortly after intervened, good Effects would have accrued to the Treasury thereby, And altho' so much from the above suggested Cause hath not hitherto been done as could have been wished, yet I am informed the Treasurer hath been enabled to furnish the Departments here with considerable Sums of Money, and more is daily coming in.

The Board of Commissioners for laying the Monthly Tax are now sitting and seem disposed to press the immediate laying and Collecting the same with Vigour.

Inclosed I send to your Excellency and the Honourable the Council a Copy of a Deposition* taken by me some time past, respecting the Conduct of a Certain Robert Erwin (alias Irwin) of the Town of Hanover, who had been first appointed by Mr William Buchanan, to make Provision at that Place for the supply of the Marching Troops &c., and if I mistake not was afterwards farther empowered by General Gates whilst he presided in the Board of War, And in Vertue of the said appointment acted for some time in divers Capacities, Viz., As Quarter Master, & Purchasing and Issuing Commissary, &c. In which Stations it is but too likely that he hath not acted with that Fidelity which he ought to have done, As by the Affidavit of Philip Sholl appears. As it will at all Times be very disagreeable

* See page 14.

to me to trouble your Excellency and the Honourable Council with any trivial Matter, or with any Case which doth not strictly fall under the Cognizance of the Executive Power of the State; So on the other Hand the Line of the Staff Department and the Calling persons to account of the Appointment of Congress or of those under them who are guilty or Charged with Fraud or Peculation is so difficult and Critical, as I would not willingly mistake or mix the Powers from whence Redress ought to come nor yet willingly and tamely submit to wink at the perpetration of Frauds Committed by their Servants or those of their appointment, a desire therefore to be farther directed in this Matter by your Excellency is my only Reason for troubling you therewith.

Shortly after I had taken the Deposition, and finding thereby that a Quantity of Liquors, Bacon Oats, &c., had been disposed of, and hearing That the Rye and the Flour was also likely to be squandered, I issued a Warrant of Seizure under the late Law (tho' I was and still am perswaded the property to be that of the publick) directed to Philip Sholl, the informer, and lest he should be intimidated or deterred from doing his Duty, I rode to the Place myself, and being favoured with the personal Attendance of Col^o McCallister and Slagle, Esq^rs, both Justices of the Peace of the County, we seized 17 Casks of Flour, (being all that then remained) and about 110 Bushels of the Rye;—This Step was taken to secure as much as we could until farther Enquiry and Order could be thereon had.

His Behaviour on the Occasion was somewhat Sullen, and insolent as well as disrespectful, pertinaciously asserting the Property of both were vested in him, but would not directly say by what Means, excepting that sometimes he hinted It was allowed him for his Services, again (tho' he did not directly say) Queried if he had not a Right to purchase the Rations of Soldiers? and insinuated that he had gotten it in that Way, and positively asserting that he had settled his Accounts, said the Property was his.

Notwithstanding which, (As it can be proved That the Whole of the Flour had been purchased by other Persons for Continental Use, and hauled there at the publick Expence and delivered to him as Issuing Commissary, And as the Rye tho' purchased by Erwin himself, yet it can be proved that when he purchased it he did so for the Publick, and that the Quarter Master of the Place paid the Teams for hauling it,) I have requested Col. Slagle to Recognize the said Robert Erwin to our next April Sessions to answer to the Premises, Together with the said Sholl, also the Person from whom the Rye was purchased, also the Waggoner who hauled it, also the Quarter Master who paid the Expence as well for the hauling the Flour as the Rye—as Witnesses for the State.

If he hath settled his Accounts as himself saith I presume Col. Blain will have some Knowledge thereof, and who I am perswaded would not wink at such Proceedings if acquainted therewith.

As the Flour is on the very point of spoiling, and as I am told

will now only do to be used for Bisket, it requires That Order be taken thereon as soon as possible, and as Col. Miller is now in Philadelphia, he will be ready to receive whatever your Excellency and the Honourable Board may be pleased to direct.

After sincerely acknowledging Your Excellency's favourable Sentiments of my Conduct as expressed in your Letter, and wishing to be ever found worthy thereof, as well in principle as practice

I remain,

May it please your Excellency,

your most obedient

Humble Servant,

ARCH^d M^cCLEAN.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Gen. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Head Qrs. Morristown, March 10th, 1780.

Sir,

Since I had the Honor of writing to your Excellency on the 20th ulto, I have obtained some Returns of Corps which I had not then. I find there are in Moylan's Regiment of Dragoons a few men belonging to the state of Pennsylvania, of which I inclose you a particular Return, speeifying the Times of their engagement.

I have, the Honor to be,

with the greatest respect & esteem,

Yr. Excellency's

most Obedt. Servant,

G^o WASHINGTON.*

Directed,

Public Service.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq. President of the State of Pennsylvania.

G^o WASHINGTON.

Read March 25, 1780.

T. M. Secy.

*See Col. Rec., Vol XII., p. 293.

Return of non Commissioned Officers & Privates, in the 4 Regiment of Light Dragoons, (Moylan's), belonging to the State of Pennsylvania; speceifying the terms for which they stand engaged.

	War.	April.	July.	1780. Sept^r.		
	11	5	1	1	18	Total.

Only Eleven of the men included in the above Return, are to be credited as part of the States Quota; as the inlistments of the Rest, expire before the last of September, 1780.

Adam Witman* to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Your Printed Letters of the 7th December, 1779, Came to hand the 22nd January, 1780. I Imediately sent to Each of the other Com^ns their Part, and several of the others to the Collectors, which was yet in arrear for tax; and now I belief the first Quota for Berks County, of the supplies for 1779, is settled with the State Treasurer, and now we are shortly to hold the appeal for the aditional supplies for 1779. To wit., the 20th Ins^t, and to Continue until the 30th Inclusive. Three Townships are notified to appear Each Particular Day. But now we are upstructed in Evry quarter; some threathen our Lives, others say they will all Come in a body at the appeal, &c. There are whole Townships wherein not a man has sworn to his return, Even some of the Justices of the Peace, as they are stiled, Have refused to make their Returns on Oath. There is a suit actually Commenced against one of our Late Collectors and my self, by a Mean Scounderall att'y, &c., &c., who lives Only three Doors from my house. Now Sir, and Gent^n of the Council, if this is Permited, we will be hard set to get any Body to Collect. There are Five who have already thrown up there Duplicates, and Declare they will not Serve; when this comes to their Ears, that our Warrants are not to be obeyed, nothing will be Done. I shall now Proceed to state the Case for which the suit is Brought exactly [and Inclose you a Copy of our Warrants to the Collectors]. At our Last Appeal a Man appeared, whose Son was Taxed for his head, who asked why his neighbour's son, Thomas, was not Taxed, as well as his son, to which some of the Board replied that he had not been returned, neither Did any of us know if he was of age or not; the man Insisted that he should be entered in the Duplicate, if said Thomas was not of Lawfull age he would be Liable for the Tax, which Engagement One of the Board Entered

* "Commissary of the Tax in Berks County."

on our Minutes, and Entered said Thomas on the Duplicate accordingly. But when the Family of Thomas heard of this, his Brother Came to us with a small scrap of Paper, which he saith was a Copy of some record of a Church. The Board was of Opinion that was not suficient Proof, and told him that his Father or Mother must qualifye before some Justice, respecting the age of his Brother, and if he was not as old as was Represented to us, we would Instantly Discharge him, and Inform the Neighbour Concerning his Engagement, But the Brother refused to Do this, and still Insisted that the Proof above mentioned was suficient; thus the matter Hung to the Last, neither the Father or the Mother appeareth with us. A few Days ago the Collector Conveyed the said Thomas to Reading, with Intent to Make a settlement of his Duplicate, as also of that Disputed affair, and went to my house with said Thomas and the Brother; the Collector requested me to Read the Warrant, saying I Cant Read or Right, which I Did, and told him to Follow his orders. Then Thomas's Brother Begun to argue afresh about his Church Book or Record. I told him that I could Do nothing by myself, and had no orders from the Board; on which they left my house, and the Colector conveyed him to Goal. Now I am singled out, and the said Suit is commenced. I am the youngest of the then Commissioners, have Done no Better nor Worse than any of the other Com^rs. This must make it appear to be spite and vexatious. One years service in the Capacity of Com^r or ass^r, is More Burthensom now as Ten years formerly. We neglect our own Business, sink Money, and Get abused by many Imputánt Scamps. I also Inclose you a Copy of the Summons which, when you have Perused, Please to return. I Humbly Intreat you to afford us some usefull aid on the subject.

If this is Permitted that Known Torys may Perplex us and abuse us in our office at Pleasure, Taxation Can not be Carried on with Dispatch. I can assure you Gentlemen, that meny, who som of you well know, and who you would not suspect, are Engaged aginst us—I will not mention no names this time.

You may Relay on it that the Fine mentioned in the Act of General Assembly would not Compell some of us to serve in the Capacity of Com^rs & assessors, was it not for the Love of our Country and the Regard of our Duty thereto.

your most obedient Humble Servt,

ADAM WITMAN.

P. S. There is an Evil attenting, to wit., We Do not or at no Time Get the Acts of Genl Assembly in Due Time, altho. we are But a small Step from the City. I can not Imagine how the Back Counties Do; its a great Hinderance, and must Put Busines far back. A. W.

Directed,

To Joseph Read, Esquire, President in Council, Philadelphia.

Indorsed.—Received March 12, 1780.

Proclamation of Congress, 1780.

It having pleased the righteous Governor of the World, for the punishment of our manifold offences, to permit the sword of war still to harass our country, it becomes us to endeavour, by humbling ourselves before him, and turning from every evil way, to avert his anger and obtain his favour and blessing; it is therefore hereby recommended to the several States,

That Wednesday, the twenty-sixth day of April next, be set apart and observed as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, that we may, with one heart and one voice, implore the Sovereign Lord of heaven and earth to remember mercy in his Judgments; to make us sincerely penitent for our transgressions; to prepare us for deliverance, and to remove the evils with which he hath been pleased to visit us; to banish vice and irreligion from among us, and establish virtue and piety by his divine grace; to bless all public Councils throughout the United States, giving them wisdom, firmness, and unanimity, and directing them to the best measures for the public good; to bless the magistrates and people of every rank, and animate and unite the hearts of all to promote the interest of their Country; to bless the public defence, inspiring all Commanders of soldiers with magnanimity and perseverance, and giving vigour and success to the military operations by sea and land; to bless the illustrious soverign and the nation in alliance with these States, and all who interest themselves in the Support of our rights and liberties; to make that alliance of perpetual and extensive usefulness to those immediately concerned, and mankind in general, to grant fruitfull seasons, and to bless our Industry trade and manufactures; to bless all schools and seminaries of learning, and every means of instruction and education; to cause Wars to cease, and to establish peace among the Nations.

And it is further recommended that servile labour and recreations be forbidden on the said day.

Done in Congress, the Eleventh day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty, and in the fourth year of our Independence.

SAM. HUNTINGTON,
President.

Attest, CHA. THOMSON, Secretary.*

Indorsement,

1780, received March 15th, Proclamation of Congress for a day of fasting and prayer. 26th of April next.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 279, 282.

Gov. Geo. Clinton to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Albany 11th March, 1780.

Sir,

The Legislature of this state have had under their Consideration the act of Congress, recommending it to the several States to make proper Provision for their respective Troops serving in the army of the United States, to take Place at the Expiration of the war, but have deferred taking their final Measures upon the Subject till they are informed what Provision has been made in the other States of the Union, being sollicitous that this Business may be conducted, particularly with Respect to the allowances to be made to the Troops as nearly as possible upon one uniform System through the whole.

I have therefore to request the Favour of your Excellency to inform me what Steps have been taken in the State over which you preside, in Consequence of that Recommendation, and whether any & what Provision has been made for the widows & Children of such Officers and Soldiers as die while in Service, and I shall be much obliged if I may be favoured with your answer on this Subject in Season to lay it before the Legislature on the 1st of June next to which Time they stand adjourned.

I have the Honor to be,
with the highest respect & Esteem,
Your most obedt. Servt.
GEO. CLINTON.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Read Esquire, President of the Executive Council of the state of Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1780.

Gentlemen,

We received your Favour acquainting us with your Apprehensions of another scarcity in Camp. We hoped such Measures would have been taken after the Distress experienced last Fall, as would have prevented a like Calamity. We are firmly persuaded that temporary Expedients tho they give immediate Relief eventually tend to create fresh Difficulties, and that nothing now can be effected but a System founded on a settled Medium of Trade. The same Spirit which has animated us hitherto, will induce us to use every Means in our Power to prevent the melancholy Consequences you apprehend; but

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 305.

it is with infinite Concern we must inform you that our abilities lessen the oftener these extraordinary Exertions are made, & however painful the Declaration, our Duty to ourselves & the publick obliges us to inform you that we have no reasonable Prospect of offering any Speedy Relief, & that for the following Reasons, First.

That we have not Continental Money in our Treasury having honoured the Orders of Congress as fast as they were presented. 2nd. The Confidence in it is so much impaired, that we have Reason to fear it will not now be held in sufficient Estimation to draw from the Country the necessary supply.

We cannot think ourselves, justified in keeping you in Suspense or holding out an Expectation which we have too much Reason to fear will prove delusive, and therefore while we tender our best Services on this Occasion, deem it best to acquaint you however unpleasant the Duty, with the real State of the Business.

I am Gent.

Your obedt. Hbbl.

Servt.*

Pres. Reed to Commissioners of Berks Co. 1780.

Philad^a, March 13, 1780.

Gentlemen:

Your letter of the Inst,† has been duly received & laid before the Council. As the Difficulties you have met with in the execution of your Office, we believe originated here it becomes easier to give you a full & clear Answer. Our Advice & Direction therefore is that you proceed upon the Act of Assembly agreeable to the Opinion of the Att^y General which is enclosed & which was obtained in Consequence of a like Objection made here by Persons who have manifested little Attachment to the great Cause we have been and are yet supporting. When Gentlemen of the Law give their Opinion to their Clients they are acting in their Profession & if any Person chooses on such an Opinion to enter into a Contest with the public Officers he must abide the Consequences, but then Opinions are generally too interested to be a safe Guide to publick Officers & we recommend to you not to pay any Regard to them in the execution of your Office, but in cases of real Difficulty to apply to the Board as you have now done, to the Supreme Court or Attorney General *when Alone*.

We therefore have only to repeat to you what we have already said to the Commissioners of the County that you ought to proceed with Firmness and Temper in the Collection of the Taxes, leaving to Individuals to avail themselves of the Laws of the Country for Re-

* See page 128, 138. † See p. 124.

dress if they apprehend themselves injured & while acting with impartiality & Integrity you may rely upon our fullest Support & Assistance.

I am Gentlemen,

Your Obed^t Hble Servt,

JOS REED,

President.

PRES. REED TO MONS. HOLKER, F. C. 1780.

Sir,

One of the Delegates in Congress from this State a few Days ago presented us with a Resolve of that Hon. Body requesting that you might be supplied before the 1st May with 6000 Barrels of Flour, 600 Bbls Pork, & 200 Bbls of Beef by this State. It is with great Concern Sir, that we are obliged to inform you that we have no Prospect of being able to comply with this Request in our present Circumstances and that we would wish you in your Arrangement not to depend upon, us for this Supply least a Disappointment may prove injurious to your views. We shall make the utmost exertions to comply (as far as we are enabled) with the general Requisition of Congress but in our present Situation we cannot in Justice to you or ourselves enter into any such special Engagement. At the same Time I beg Leave to inform you that we have not the least Objection to your making any Purchases you may think proper for the use of the royal Marine of France.

I am Sir, Your Obed^t

& very Hble Servt.*

GEN. HAND TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Camp near Morristown, 13th March, 1780.

Sir,

As it is likely the State will fal on some Better mode of raising the number of men deficient in its Proportion for the Present year than by sending Officers from the Different Regiments to recruit. I think it would be an Object worthy the Attention of Council to have the recruits distributed to the Several Regiments in Such proportions as their present Strength will require in Order to level the

* Col. Rec. Vol. XII. p. 275.

regiments, if that should not be the Case the appearance of the whole line will be much hurt & the weaker Regiments rendered contemptable even in their own estimation and except the number of the Regiments be reduced by incorporation I cant devise any other mode of leveling the different Corps. The 4th & 11th Regiments are deficient in the Article of Thread to make up the Cloth drawn by the last distribution. I wish there was a Possibility of remedying the defect, indeed there should be an overproportion otherwise the Cloths will very shortly be unfit for Service for want of mending.

I am Sir with much respect

your Excy's most obedt & most Hble servt,

EDWd. HAND.*

Directed.

(On public service.)

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, March 14, 1780.

Sir,

Enclosed your Excellency will receive a Recommendation of Congress to the several States to set apart Wednesday the 26th of April next as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer.†

With great Esteem & respect

I have the honour to be

your Excy's hble servant,

SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

Directed,

His Excy The President of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 284. † See page 131.

Amer. Phil. Society to Council, 1780.

Philad^y, 14th March, 1780.

Sir,

The American Philosophical Society request His Excellency the President, and the Council of the State to favour them with their presence at the delivery of their anniversary Oration at the University on Thursday evening next at six o'clock. We are with the greatest respect

Sir, your most obed't hble Serv'ts

DAVID RITTENHOUSE,
WILLIAM SMITH,
OWEN BIDDLE,
Committee.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Opinion of James Biddle, 1780.

Sir,

As I am obliged to go to Philadelphia, and cannot attend the Commissioners at the Meeting you proposed, I request you would represent to them the Complaint I made on behalf of Edward George. When you have examin'd whether there is not some Error in rating him and have rectified the mistake, the next Consideration will be the taxing fourfold—and this not only respects Edward George, but a number of other persons who have had that penalty inflicted on them contrary to the Letter and Spirit of the Law.

I have thoroughly considered the Act of Assembly and am clearly of Opinion that where people have neglected or refused to make *any Return* they are not liable to a fourfold tax for such neglect or refusal.

The Act requires the two Freeholders and Township Assessors to go to the Dwelling house of each Inhabitant and *by all lawful ways & means diligently inform* themselves of the names, &c., and of all the Real & personal taxable property within the said Township.

If the person to whom they applied gave in a return and wilfully conceal'd in such Return *any part* of his taxable property with intent to screen it from taxation the Legislature in the 7th section imposed a penalty of fourfold taxation for all property so concealed —considering it as a *fraud* which should be severely punished.

When through Carelessness, neglect or obstinacy no return at all was made by the party applied to, the Freeholders and Assessors had it in their power either to make a full Return if they could not come to a knowledge of the whole taxable property of the party by any lawful ways or means [for the Act does not expressly require the party to make a Return.] Or if they were dissatisfied and could not thoroughly inform themselves then they should return the names of such persons, and they might be omitted in the assessment and the Commissioners at the time of Appeal might *call such persons before them* and on their *neglect or refusal* to appear before them and give an account of their taxable Estate—impose a *double* tax on all their taxable Estate they can get information of according to the 18th section of the act.

The 18th Section provides a full remedy where the parties applied to will not make any return at all. The 7th Section provides for punishing those who pretending to make a Return fraudulently conceal *a part* of their taxable property.

It is very clear to me that the Commissioners have been led into an Error by not thoroughly understanding the Act of Assembly, and as several people have by that Error been illegally taxed fourfold I make no doubt you and your Brethren will rectify the mistake before its too late either by returning the money to those who have paid it or giving them Credit for it in their Subsequent taxes. This will be doing Justice to them and to your own Character, and prevent all farther trouble.

I am Sir,

your humble servant.

JAMES BIDDLE.*

Reading, March 5, 1780.

Directed,

Adam Witman, Esqr, One of the Commissioners of the County of Berks.

THOS. IRWIN, &c., TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Philada, 18th March, 1780.

Sir,

We hereby take the liberty of acquainting your Excellency that the Brigantine Hetty, mounting 16 Carriage Guns, Commanded by Capa Houston, is now detained here for want of Powder, Capa Styles informs us there is 16 hundred weight in his possession belonging

* See pages 49, 80, 81, 133, 138.

to the State, if your Excellency will be so kind as to lend us 5 hundred weight, we do hereby engage to deliver you the same quantity in the course of three months, or if you will receive payment for it, we will thankfully pay you the present price.*

your complyance will much oblidge

your Excellency's

most obd^t hum^ble Serv^ts,

THOMAS IRWIN,
JOS. CARSON,
WILLIAM SEMPLE,

Directed,

His Excellency Jos. Reed, Esqr, President of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Comm'rs of Berks Co., 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 10 Inst† was duly received & laid before the Supreme Executive Council. In one which is addressed by us to the Commissioners you will see what Directions we have given with Respect to those Persons who refuse to comply with the Laws of the State respecting the Return of their Property, to that we must on this Point refer you. With Respect to the young Man committed for refusing to pay his Taxes as the Matter is stated the Council see nothing in your Conduct to disapprove—on the other Hand you may depend upon our Support & Countenance while doing such Duty with Firmness & Integrity. As to the Suit against you this we are sorry to find Persons so disposed to trouble the publick Officers, it is one of the Abuses of the Law which must be submitted to in order to avoid a greater Inconveniency, but as it is not reasonable you should be a sufferer in Discharge of your Duty the Council direct you to employ an Attorney to appear for you to defend the Suit & all reasonable Expences attending it will be defrayed by the publick.—As the Powers of this Board are very ample with Respect to dissatisfied Characters we would wish you to acquaint us fully & truly with the Names of the Persons you describe as perplexing you in your Duty they will soon find that there is both Power & Inclination in the Board to treat them according to their Deserts.

Be not discouraged or disheartned in the vigorous Prosecution of your Duty, you will receive Assistance & Support from every good Man & Lover of his Country—but on the other Hand be careful to

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 278. † See pp. 129, 133.

prevent Passion or Resentm^t influencing your Conduct, this will give those bad Men the only advantage they can take. But if you shew them that you will proceed with Firmness & Temper the Justice & Reason of your Case will triumph over all Opposition. Inclosed I send you the Summons agreeable to your Desire & am Sir

your obed. Hbbl.

Serv.

Directed,

To Adam Witman, Esq, Commiss^r of the Taxes for Berks County.

PRES. REED TO GOV. LIVINGSTON, 1780.

Philad., March 16th, 1780.

Sir,

Inclosed is a Petition which I beg Leave to request you will lay before the House of Assembly. I cannot believe the Hon. House can take any Pleasure in seeing the Property of any Persons wantonly wasted & destroyed, but when it happens to be that of one who has risqued freely Life & Fortune in the great Contest, I am perswaded I may safely rely upon the Justice & Attention of the Assembly of New Jersey & expect a favourable Reception of a Petition which has in View the Preservation of the Rights of Individuals in perfect Consistency with the Duty owing to the State—I have the Honour to be with great Respect

Sir,

your most obed^t

& Hbbl Serv.,

JOS. REED.

JOSEPH STILES TO COUNCIL, 1780.

Sir,

I have paid for repairing 426 stand of Arms £8579 3 9 and have yet to pay for 200 more that are brought in. I also owe Mr Willm Turnbull £2400 for 800lb Lead, & if the other Arms now in the Armoury, & to be brought in by the Militia, are to be repaired; the Sum required will be at least £20,000 more. I beg Sir to be enabled to pay the Workmen & Mr Turnbull by a draft on the Treasury

for at least Ten thousand pounds. I have sent the powder & Lead and Flints to Northampton County which the Waggoner informs me he delivered safe at Easton.
March 18th, 1780.

I am Sir
Your obedient hum Servt
JOSEPH STILES, C. M. Stores.

Directed,
Timothy Matlack Esqr Secretary to the supreme Executive Council.

Col. D. Brodhead to President Reed, 1780.

Fort Pitt March 18th 1780.

Dear Sir,

I am Sorry to inform you that the Savages have already begun their hostilities—last sunday morning at a Sugar Camp upon Raccoon Creek five Men were killed & three lads & three Girls taken Prisouers. It is generally conjectured that the Delawares have struck this blow and it is probable enough but it is possible it may have been done by other Indians. If the Delawares are set against us with their numerous alliances they will greatly distress the frontier as my Force is quite too small to repell their invasions. I have wrote to the Commander in chief for a reinforcement from the main army but I fear it will not be in his power to detach any of the troops. I have likwise wrote to the board of war to forward some ordnance & Military Stores without which our parts cannot well be defended nor offensive operations carried on.

Your Excellency cannot lay me under a greater obligation than by having some small Regt from the main army annexed to mine for I see no possibility of recruiting it. The recruiting officers expenses takes all the money to little or no purpose.

You may rely on my giving every possible protection & countenance to our settlements but I have very little in my power without calling out the Militia & for them I have no provisions. What Colo. Geo. Morgan has been doing this two years past I know not, but I conceive that if he had been where his employment required, we should have been much better provided.

I trust the Clothier Genl. will send ample supplies of linnen for the Troops the ensuing Season. I beg my respectfull Compts. to Colo. Jno Bayard and that your Excellency will believe me to be with the most sincere Regard & esteem your most

Obedt Servt,
DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Directed,
His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqr.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1780.

Gent.

We send you inclosed an Affidavit respecting some Mal Practice in the Staff Department in York County. The Party is bound over to the Court to be prosecuted by the civil Law; But as the Delay in such Cases is often very considerable we cannot think it proper the Party should remain in Office and we should have suspended him if we could ascertain whether he yet continued to hold any Office in the Staff. We have therefore concluded to send the Affidavit to you, with the farther Remark that we have so many Complaints from that County of abuses in the Staff that we are persuaded there must be some extraordinary Mismanagement in that Quarter which requires particular Care & Attention.

I am Gent.

Your Obed. Hble Serv,

JOS. REED.

Indorsed,—March 18, 1780.

Pres. Reed, to Mrs. Anne Riche, 1780.

In Council, Philad^a March 20th, 1780.

Madam,

Agreeable to your Desire I laid your Letter & the Inclosure before the Council & should have been glad to have had it in my Power to add that the State of Affairs would have admitted a Compliance but the numerous & pressing Applications that would follow a departure from the Rule laid down induced the Council to adhere to their Regulation of giving no Passes to go into New York on private Business & return again.—If they could relax in any Instance I am persuaded they would do so in your Case; but hitherto it has been held inviolate.

I am Madam,

Your Obed Hble Serv,

J. R.*

To Mrs. Anne Riche.

George Stevenson to Council, 1780.

Carlisle 21st March 1780.

Sir,

I take the opportunity by this Letter, to inform his Excellency the President and the honorable the Executive Council of this Common-Wealth, that a certain Christopher Kauffman of Carlisle, who

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 284.

in December 1777, had mortgaged his House & Lot in Carlisle to a certain Mary Buchannan, for securing the Payment of £150 with Interest, due by two Obligations, the one payable in Decr. 1778 with Interest the other in Decr 1779 with Interest; Kauffman sold his House and Lot, and after several ineffectual Attempts to pay Mary her Debts & Intt, he, at length, collected the whole Sum, Principle and Interest, in Money emitted by the honorable the Continental Congress, before the 6th day of Feb. 1777, and in the Presence of two Credible Witnesses, tendered the Debt & Int. to the said Mary which She refused to receive; after 4 Days, viz. the 6th day after the Tender, Kauffman waited on Stephen Duncan Esqr, Treasurer of Cumberland County, at his House, and offered him two third Parts of the Same Money, which he also refused to receive. Quere What is Kauffman to do with this Money. Kauffman applied to me, I answered him, I will write to Council, for the Act does not suppose any Treasurer will refuse to do his Duty. Your Answer will oblidge,

Sir,
your most obedt Hble Serv.
GEO. STEVENSON.*

Directed,
Timothy Matlack Esq. Secretary.

Resolve of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, March 21st, 1780.

Resolved,

That it be recommended to the governments of the several States to suspend making new appointments of Officers in the regiments of their respective lines except where the Commander in Chief or commanding Officer in the southern Department shall deem such appointments indispensibly necessary.

Extract from the minutes,
CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed.

Philadelphia, March 28, 1780.

Sir,

Enclosed your Excellency will receive an act of Congress of the 21st Instant.

Recommending to the governments of the several States to suspend making new appointments of Officers in the Regiments of their respective Lines, except when the Commander in Chief, or Com-

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XII., p. 296.

manding Officers in the Southern Department shall deem such appointment indispensibly necessary.

The Design of this Act is to aid the Intentions of Congress in retrenching the supernumary Officers as soon as Circumstances will admit without doing Injury or Injustice to the Officers.

I have the honor to be
with sincere Esteem & respect
your Excy hbble servant,
SAM HUNTINGTON,
President.*

Directed,
His Excellency President Reed.

M. Furman to Chas. Pettit, 1780.

Trenton, March 24th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I have not troubled you with my afflictions for some time, and wish there was no further Occasion for it.

My difficulties increase, and will soon, I fear, be insurmountable, my Circumstances therefore, like the Irish Resolves, needs no preamble. Our Army some days fast, some days have half allowance, and but few days the whole Ration. Three or four hundred Barrels of Flour is gone from this Post this week, and about One hundred Barrels is now here which shall also move on as soon as in my power, and a little is Collecting in this State and droping Slowly into Camp, but all does not more than keep them alive. I hope, and expect, Provisions Sufficient will be procured, but how it will be transported to them I know not, for more than half the Teams in the Service has given me Notice that they are under a necessity of quiting it. The Wages being so very low it will not support them for a four Horse Team & Driver Ten pounds ℔ Day, and that of Two Horses seven pounds, 10*s*. the former will buy ¾ in hard money, the Latter ⅔ can any reasonable Man expect, or any honest man desire, they will continue in the Service on such Terms. Besides the transportation of the Commissary Stores and Forage through this State to Camp, a Quantity of Stores for the Penns^a troops is coming on which will require a Considerable number of Wagons, how are they to be got without money, and *almost* without price.

To be plain and to conclude, unless money is supplied to pay for Carting, and I am allowed to Pay a Reasonable price for it, I now desire you to take Notice, that I will not hold my self accountable for the Consequence after this present month of March runs out;

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 293.

And this I beg you will not fail to Communicate *Immediately* to those who can grant Relief in the premises.

I am Dr Sr.

yr most obt Servant

M. FURMAN, D. Q. M. G.

Directed,

On public service.

Charles Pettit Esquire, A. Q. M. G. Philadelphia.

Major Benj. G. Eyre to Council, 1780.

Philadelphia, 25th March, 1780.

Gentlemen,

Agreeable to a resolve of your Honorable Board of the 2d Inst, I have Collected Schuylkill Bridge together and have got it well Anchored again, it wants a considerable deal of repairs, both of Carpenter's and Smith's work.

You request me to make you an estimate of the Expence that will attend it, the Carpenters work will come to about £6000, and the Black-smiths bill about £2500.

I have already advanced a Considerable sum of money to pay the workmen and am now entirely out, and have therefore to request that you will be pleased to grant me an Order for a sum sufficient to enable me to go on with the business, which will much oblige

Your Obt hble servt

BENJAMIN G. EYRE.*

Directed,

The Honble, The Supreme Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Arch. McClean, 1780.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 10† Inst. has been received. It is with Astonishment the Council have been informed that the County Treasurer has furnished the Departments with the Money received by him in his Office. You will please to forward to him the inclosed Letter immediately which we hope will effectually check such a

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 266, 293, 317.

† See page 126.

Procedure. We entirely disapprove of it unless the Treasurer of the State has drawn Orders which may justify the County Treasurer therein.

We have made Inquiry into Mr Irwin's Affair & laid before the Board of War the Affidavit respecting him I send you their Answer inclosed. If any Measure here can be taken for farther Detection or Punishment we shall readily pursue it and at all Events recommend the Matter being laid before the next Grand Jury who we trust will either indict or prevent such Conduct if proved to their Satisfaction. It is now become the Duty of every good Man in an extraordinary Degree to check these baneful Practices which have in no small Degree contributed to our present Difficulties. We are sensible that it is a painful & an invidious Task but it must be done or the Cause & Country will sink & if pursued with Temper & Firmness I am persuaded no Conduct will procure more solid Respect & Affection from the People. I am Sir

your most obed.

& very humble serv.,

J. R.

Directed,

To Arch. McClean Esq., York Town.

Indorsed,

1780 March 25th.

Circular of Gen. Geo. Washington, 1780.

Head Q'rs, Morris Town, March 26th, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency will have received I presume before this, a Transcript of an act of Congress of the 25th of last month, calling on the several states for specific quantities of provisions, Rum & Forage for the army, and directing the articles of supplies to be collected and deposited at such places in each of the states, as should be judged most convenient by me. In the case of a defensive War like ours, which depends almost wholly on the movements and operations of the Enemy, it is difficult, if not impracticable, to fix on places of deposit for stores, which may not be rendered improper by subsequent events; and all we can do upon such occasions, is, to collect them where it shall appear from a comparative view of circumstances, that they will be probably secure and most likely to facilitate the purposes intended. I have considered the point with respect to the supplies required of your state, and I beg leave to

inform your Excellency, that it appears to me, they should be deposited at the following places: Easton, Reading, Lancaster, Esterton, York, Carlisle, Sunbury, Bedford, Ligonier and Philadelphia. All the imported Rum & the Salt, and a thousand tons of Hay, and half the Corn required, to be collected at Philadelphia—the remainder of the forage at the other places in proportion to the quantity of Flour to be deposited at them.

I have the Honor to be,
with great respect & esteem,
Your Excellency's
Most obed't serv't,
G°. WASHINGTON.*

Directed,
His Excellency President Reed.

M. Furman to Charles Pettit, 1780.

Trenton, 26 March, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I received your favour of the 24th last evening, will examine the amt of money sent me, and note any errors or omissions I may discover.

I wrote you the 24th Inst.,† and gave you some Information respecting the Circumstances of your Department in this State, and being anxiously concerned for the support of our Army, on whom all yet depends; I must again mention, that unless money is supplied to pay off the Teams for this months service—and I am allowed to advance their pay at least to sixty dollars ℔ day in future—there will not be a Team left in the service in a few days; one Brigade gave me notice this morning they should quit the first of next month, after they made this trip to Camp, and so I expect they will go on to the last Brigade.

Inclosed is Copy of a Letter from Jacob Tagart, Esquire, of Salem County, who has acted as Q. M. & Collector of Forage there for some time, and is known to be an excellent Officer. I gave a copy of it to Coll. Biddle when he pass'd through this place, and as the Heads of the Department are now together, I beg their Consideration of the matter, and their orders upon it; I fear the People will make a serious affair of it with Mr. Tagart, and its pity that a good Officer should not be Supported.

I am Dr Sr,
Yrs aff'ly,
M. FURMAN.

Directed,
Public Service. Charles Pettit, Esquire, A. Q. M. G., Philadelphia. ℔ post.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 313.
† See page 148.

MONS. HOLKER TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Philadelphia, ye 27th March, 1780.

Sir,

I have the honor of transmitting to your Excellency a copy of a resolve of Congress, relative to supplies for the royal marine of France. I have differred till this day making any application to your Excellency and the honorable the Executive Council of this State, because I knew the distress of the Continental army, & the difficulties which exist with respect to procuring provisions; but as there still remains a ballance due by the treasurer of the State for advances made in December last for flour, which had then been purchased by the commissioners of the State, & as the time draws near when it will be absolutely necessary that I have under my direction the whole of the provisions promised by Congress to be supplied by the state of Pensilvania for contingent purposes, & as it is also necessary that one thousand barrels of flour be forthwith lodged in the hands of my agents, it is my duty to request from your Excellency an answer, informing me what I am to expect in consequence of the aforesaid resolve, & at what fixed & determined periods I can rely upon receiving the whole of the above mentioned provisions.

As many fatal consequences might ensue from a want of these Essential objects & of the precise knowledge of the time when they can be obtained & stored, I trust you'll approve of my earnest mode of application, and will direct those measures to be taken, which may ensure or contribute to the success of his Majesty's arms in favour of the common cause.

I remain most respectfully,
Your Excellency's
Most obedient &
very humble servant,
HOLKER.*

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqre.

Extract from the Minutes of Congress, dated March 11th, 1780, signed Chas. Thomson, Sec'y, transmitted by the President to John Holker, Esquire, agent for the Royal marine.

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of Pensilvania be requested to deliver to Mr. Holker or his agent, on or before the

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 297.

first day of May next, as a part of the supplies called for by the said resolutions of the 25th February last, six thousand barrels of Flour, six hundred barrels of Pork, and two hundred barrels of Beef, for the use of the marine of France.

A true Copy,

HOLKER.

Pres. Reed to Mr. Holker, 1780.

Sir,

I duly received your Favour of the 27th Instant & laid it before the Supreme Executive Council. The Resolution inclosed was officially received from Congress a few Days ago, and being addressed to the Legislature was forwarded to the Speaker of the Assembly to be laid before the House. As we have received no Communication from them therefore I cannot inform you what Steps or whether any were adopted in Consequence.

It is with great Concern Sir, that we are obliged to inform you that if this Requisition had been addressed to us we have no Prospect of being able to comply with it in our present Circumstances, and as a Disappointment may be very injurious to your Arrangements, we must submit to the Mortification of acknowledging our Difficulties rather than expose you to the Inconveniencies which might attend a Failure of your Engagements. We shall make the utmost Exertions to comply with the general Requisition of Congress so far as it is absolutely necessary for the support of the Continental Army, but as Embarassments, which your own Penetration will sufficiently point out, induce a reasonable Apprehension that we ought not in Justice to you or ourselves to undertake farther.

You have been pleased to mention that there still remains a Ballance due by the Treasurer of the State for Advances made in December last. We are persuaded that upon Recollection of that Transaction & Reference to your Letter of the 16th Nov. last, you will see that there must be a Misapprehension on this Subject. We had procured the Flour for you, & Congress addressed you to obtain it for their Use & you, very properly, supposing that you had a clear Right to dispose of it without our Interference, gave your Directions accordingly, which were complied with. The Terms were so explicit that we apprehended nothing was farther necessary on our Part; however, that there might be no Mistake & that on the Delivery to Congress no Difficulty might arise with Respect to Payment, your Letter was forwarded to Mr. Turnbull. We acted entirely on the Idea that the Flour was yours, subject to your Order only, and that in delivering it to any Persons you directed whether Continental Officers or other, we were entirely exonerated from any Charge

respecting it, or the Payment of it. Mr. Turnbull will confirm this Judgment of the Matter as it was often repeated to him that I need only refer you to him for farther Satisfaction, & am,

Sir, with great Consideration & Respect,

Your most obt. H'bble Servt.*

P. S. I beg leave to add that as we cannot engage a Compliance with the above Requisition, & as some Time will necessarily elapse before the Purchases of the State will commence on the publick Account, it is not the Desire of the Board that you should consider yourself otherwise than at entire Liberty to purchase the Articles specified, in any Way you think proper. We have been induced to express this Sentiment from a Recollection that under different Circumstances of the publick Credit it was formerly intimated that private Purchases might be attended with Inconveniences.

Indorsed, March 28.

Pres. Reed to Col. D. Brodhead, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Your Favours of the 11th & 28th† Feb. have been duly received, the Letters inclosed which had passed between Col. Lochry & yourself‡ had been communicated to the Council & an Answer wrote, which I doubt not before this Time has reach'd you. We are very sorry for these Misunderstandings & you cannot do us a more acceptable Service than to endeavour to do them away as much as possible. Harmony at all Times, but more especially at present, is so necessary that if it can be restored we cannot doubt your Exertions for that Purpose. We have wrote to the like Effect to Col. Lochry, recommending to him to pay a due Regard to your Situation & Command—with which we hope he will comply.

The Assembly have voted 4 new Companies to be raised for the Defence of the Frontiers, the Men to be inlisted for the War, but the low state of our Treasury has hitherto prevented our entering on the Business. The Council, under all Circumstances, could have wish'd to have appointed other Officers, but Inclination of the Assembly in Favour of former Appointments will probably oblige us to reappoint, as no other Names have been given us.

The Affair of Ward & Smallman is now before Congress, who will doubtless give you some Instructions. We think you have judged right in avoiding to engage yourself in any Dispute on that unfortunate Subject of Jurisdiction. Your Situation is delicate & will

* See preceding letter, and Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 297.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 286, and page 106 of this.
‡ See pages 36, 42, 50, 65, 66, 69, 79.

require your utmost Prudence. I am much obliged to you for your kind offers respecting Lands,* but at present my Station will prevent my engaging in pursuits of that nature least it might give Offence & give Reason to a censorious World to suppose I had made an improper Use of my publick Character.

Col. Blaine is now appointed Comm^y Gen., to whom I have advised your Son to make Application, & if my good offices are wanting I shall chearfully promote his Interest on all Occasions.

I send you the late News Papers & some Proclamations of the Council, as it may be probable these dangerous Offenders may fly into the back Country, and am, Dear Sir, with much Esteem,

Your Obed. & very H'bble Servt.

Maj. Gen. Greene to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, 30th March, 1780.

Sir,

By an act of the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, published the 28th of the present month, the Officers and Agents of my department are prohibited from purchasing any articles of Forage; and from the scanty supplies of money furnished to the department for some time past, those Officers & Agents have not had it in their power to lay up any magazines of Forage, having with difficulty obtained what was necessary for daily consumption.

There are now in different parts of this State upwards of two thousand Horses, the property of the United States, some of which are in actual service, but the greater part put out to be recruited for the service of the ensuing Campaign. The Officers under whose care they are, not being able to pay the Farmers for their keeping, nor to purchase Forage to support them, have been obliged to shift them from place to place to obtain for them a temporary subsistence. Some have been delivered up to the Officers, who are thus left destitute of the means of subsisting them, and others are daily expecting to be delivered up in like manner. Many of the horses are by these means continued in their impoverished situation, and others who were in some measure recruited, are again falling away, and unless measures are speedily taken to afford them subsistence there will be little chance of their being raised to be fit for service at the opening of the Campaign, and many of them will probably die in a few days for mere want of food.

I shall inclose herein a copy of a Letter I have this day received from the Assistant Commissary Genl of Forage, which will more fully explain the wretched situation of the Forage Department in this City, where a number of Horses are necessarily kept, and others, from the circumstances alluded to, are coming in.

* See page 120.

By a clause in the act of the Legislature before mentioned, I observe that the Forage to be purchased by virtue thereof, is to be disposed of as the Supreme executive Council shall direct; I am therefore obliged to trouble your Excellency with a Request that Forage sufficient for the Public Horses in this State may be directed to be issued for that purpose in such manner as to your Excellency & the Council shall seem most proper.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient &
most humble Servant,
NATH. GREENE, Q M.

Directed,
His Excellency The President of the State of Pennsylvania in Council.

Owen Biddle to Maj. Gen. Greene, 1780.

Philadelphia, 30th March, 1780.

Sir,

About forty horses arrived here the 28th Inst, from Col. Wade, in the Delaware State—they cannot be subsisted there any longer; immediately after arrival at this place, I dispatched one of my Assistants to all the places in the Country where it was likely they might be provided for; but he has returned and cannot prevail upon the farmers to receive a single Horse. At present, the Horses are kept in the Forage yard, but by to morrow I do not expect we shall have a blade of Hay left at this magazine; it will be in vain to send them further into the Country for Subsistence, as I have daily applications made to me to receive the Horses already quartered amongst the Inhabitants, and am in hourly expectation that several hundred will be brought in; for some weeks past, many of the horses have been subsisted by shifting them from place to place, and by giving the best assurance to the people in our power that they should be removed by the first of April, and the arrearages for keeping the Horses, paid.

I am informed that the Horses which are now brought from the Delaware State are so much reduced, that they cannot be recruited so as to be fit for service at the next Campaign; besides, many of them are old, and otherwise unfit for service; you would favour me by your directions what should be done with them, as the public is likely to sustain a loss by their death.

I am, with respect, Sir,
Your obed., humble Servant,
OWEN BIDDLE.

Major General Greene, Q. M. G.
(Copy.)

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 300.

Extract of a Letter from John Hackenwelder to Col. Brodhead, 1780.

Coochocking, March 30th, 1780.

We have heard nothing at all this whole winter what the Enemy are about, the snow being so deep, & the weather so continually cold has, I suppose, prevented this; but this day I am informed that three young fellows, two Delawares & one Wyandott, have turned back from a body of warriors consisting of twenty-six men. They inform that five or six Companies of warriors are gone out: two parties of Wyandotts towards Beaver Creek, & the others down this River. The Half King, it appears, is at the head of one of the parties, & Neeshaws (a Mohican) heads a party of Muncies & Delawares. It is also reported here this day, that the Shawnese & others are gone to fight with the Army at the *Big Bone Lick;* likewise that the Wabash Indians are all gone to war.

We here intend to leave this place intirely in about two weeks, & move nearer to Gnadenhutten.

I am, with Sincere regard, your most obedt, Hbb. Servt.,

JOHN HACKENWELDER.

An Extract.

Sec'y Matlack to Major Gen. Armstrong, 1780.

Philadelphia, March 30, 1780.

Sir,

The Council have had under their consideration the appointing of Lieutenants & Sub Lieutenants of the several counties of the State, and there being no representative of the county of Cumberland in Council, nor any Gentn of character, known to the Council, now in the city to consult with respecting the appointment of those officers for your county, I am directed by His Exc'y the Prest to request you will please to give your assistance in this Nomination.

The recommendation which you gave respecting Mr Buchanan has been adverted to; but there seems to be some doubt whether it would be prudent to advance so young a Man to so high an office as Lieutenant of the county. Altho the former Lieutenants are to continue in the exercise of their authority until new appointments are made; yet there is too much reason to fear the business of arranging the Militia will not be effected until the new Commissions are issued, which makes the necessity of my requesting your answer on this Subject as early as possible.

I am Sir, with very great respect

Your most obt Servt,

T. M., Sec'y.

Directed,

Major Genl Armstrong, Cumberland Co.

Lt. W. Huston to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Carlisle, 31st March, 1780.

Sir,

I begg leave to infearm your Excellency that at an Ingagement with the Indians near Shewmong on the 13th Augt last, I Recaved A Wound in the Joynt of my Right Elbow, which has Rendred me unfit for Duty Since, and I fear will this some time, as I have had 30 peices of Boans Extracted & a number of loose ones Remain in the Wound—That I have not Recaved anny State Stoars Since I have been wounded, but have been obligd to Porshes the Same Articles at a moste Exorbitant Prise, which I must assure your Excellency I am no longer able to do, and therefore Moste Humbley Request you will be Pleased to order me a Perportion of the Stoars your Excellency has been so Instrumental in Procuring for the Troops of this State to me.

I Remain with grate Respect
Your Excellency's Moste Obet
and Very Humble Servt,
W. HUSTON, Lt & Adjt.
4th P. Regt.*

P. S. I hope your Excellency will Excuse this I wrote it with my left hand.

[Mr. John Carson to Supply.]

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr, Philadelphia.
Hon'd by Coln. Butler.

Indorsement.

Read in Council April 14, 1780.

T.M., Sec'y.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, March 31, 1780.

Sir,

The board have been honored with your Excellencys favor of the 28th.—With respect to Capt. Schott, & Capt. Selin, the board conceive that if Col. Weltner† cannot himself settle the dispute between them, that a board of officers (the usual mode upon such occasions) should determine which is best intitled to the preference. As to Capt. Rice & his Lieutenant, tho their conduct is highly reprehensa-

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 318.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 297.

ble, yet the board are of opinion that the wishes of the Honble Council would not be gratified by the consequences of an arrest.—They will write to Col. Weltner on the subject, & express in strong terms their disapprobation of the officers conduct, which tends to discourage State supplies, when it is found that the measures taken by the Governments to relieve the distresses of the officers, are thus shamefully abused.

A Colonel should have the internal Government of his own Reg^t, and it is his duty to make his officers appear in proper Uniform, especially where the public is at the expence; and if his orders are disobeyed, to arrest the delinquent, in which case, the act of selling his Clothing, would militate very much against the offender.

I have the honor to be
With the highest respect,
y^r Excellency's most obed.
& most Hble Servt.
BEN. STODDERT, Sec'y.

Directed,
His Excellency President Reed.
(War Office.)

Council to Andrew Doz, 1780.

Sir,

The President & Council have appointed you to be Commissioner of Purchases for the city of Philadelphia. The very urgent necessity for exery exertion in the duties of this office induces the Council to request you will immediately take the qualification required by law and proceed to purchase—especially forage for which there is the most pressing necessity as the public horses are now suffering for want of it.

The Council is now setting & will administer the qualification.

I am &c.
T. M.*
Philad^a April 1, 1780.

Directed,
To Mr. Andrew Doz,
The same To Col. Bull (except the last sentence.)

* See Col Rec., Vol. XII., p. 301, 303.

Gen. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Head Quarters Morris Town April 1st 1780.

Sir,

I have been honoured with Your Excellency's Letter of the 21st Instant, ult., with the inclosures to which it refers. The proceedings of the Honourable Council on the subject of the memorial, were certainly founded in the greatest propriety and I am surprised the officers in whose behalf it was preferred, should have wished for a departure from a general principle of arrangement. At the same time that the determination of the Council on the occasion, must be approved by all, I cannot but acknowledge myself peculiarly flattered by their expressions of confidence and the manner in which they have been pleased to refer the business to me.

I have the Honor to be with great respect and esteem.

Y^r Excellency's
Most Obed Servt
G^o. WASHINGTON.*

Directed,
His Excellency President Reed.

Philip Marsteller to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lebanon April 1st 7180.

Sir,

I have this two years past acted as Forrage Master for the county of Lancaster, and being informed that the Legislature of this State have made a Law for Procuring of Forrage &c. for the Army and have appointed Commissioners for the Purchasing of the same; And that the former Purchasers and Staff Officers are forbidden by a heavy Penalty to Purchase any of the Articles enumerated in said Act. And as I would always wish to conform and demean myself agreeable to the Laws of my Country, I would wish to have the Act and know the Person who is appointed for Lancaster County, if your Excellency would be pleased to send me the above mentioned Act together with the Militia Law you would very much Oblige,

Your Most Obed^t.
And Very Hum^l Servt.
PHILIP MARSTELLER.

Directed,
Jo^s Reed, Esqr.

* Col. Rec. Vol. XII. p. 286.

Wm. Maclay to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sunbury 2d April 1780.

Sir,

I will not trouble you with the distress of this County, They will no Doubt be painted to Council in lively Colours, and indeed the Picture cannot be over charged, nor should I at this Time write to you, But for a strong Belief and Persuasion, that a Body of Indians are lodged, about the head of Fishing and Muncy Creeks.

They were with us to the very beginning of the deep snow last year, they are with us now before that Snow is quite gone. This Country might be examined. This is what we wish; Many of our Hunters who went late last Fall into that Country (which is a fine one for hunting) were so alarmed with constant Reports of Guns, which they could not believe to be whitemens that they returned suddenly Back. We are not strong enough to spare men to examine this Country and Dislodge them. The German Reg^t are under their own Officers, and for my Part, I expect no such service from them. I cannot help uttering a Wish, That what Troops we have, might be all Pennsylvanians, There is a certain love of Country that really has Weight.

This is a strange divided Quarter—Whig Tory, Yankey, Pennamite Dutch Irish and English Influence are strangely blended. I must confess I begin to be national too and most sincerely believe every publick Interest of America, will be safer in the Hands of Americans, than with any others. But I will not trouble you with any more of my Opinions. Help us if you can and much oblige a distressed Country.

I am with sincere Regard

Your most Obed &

Most Hble Servt

WM. MACLAY.

Directed,

Col. Matlack.

Col. Samuel Hunter to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sunbury, April 2d, 1780.

Sir,

The Savages have made their appearance on our Frontiers in an Hostil manner. The Day before yesterday they took seven or eight Prisoners, about two miles above fort Jenkins, and two Days before that Carryed off several People from about Wyoming; this has struck such terror to the poor scattered Inhabitants of this County, that all the setlers above this will be in the Towns of Sunbury and Northumberland before two Days. Our case is Realy Deplorable, and without some speedy assistance being Ordered here, I am afraid the County will break up intirely, as the German Regiment thats stationed here is no ways adiquit to Grant us the Necessary Releife Required, and as for calling out the Militia of this County its impossable to Expect it in the present sircumstances the inhabitants is Reduced to; for if they Miss Geting spring Crops put in the Ground for the support of their familys they have nothing that can induce them to stay, Except Council would Order some of the Militia from our Neighbouring Countys, to Act in Conjunction with the few Continental Troops thats here, and without something like this is done to Encourage the People, I dred the Consequences that may Ensue.

The case is Quite altered with us till what it was this time Twelve month; we had a prity Good Fort Garrisoned at Muncy, of Continental Troops, Bradys Fort and Freelands, with our Owen inhabitants, but now we have but about fourty or fifty at Montgomerys, and thirty at Fort Jenkins, the latter of which was not able to spare men enough out of the Garrison to pursue the Enemy that Carryed of the Prisoners, suppose there was not above thirty Indians and Torys in the party, and a prity Deep snow had fallen the night before, which they could be easily tracted. I am sorry to mention this, as I have seen the time, within this three years past, that we could turn out some Hundred of Good Woodsmen, but now the case is altered, as our County is Quite Drained of our Best men. I hope to have a favourable answer to this by the Bearer, as it would Encourage the Drooping spirits of a poor Distressed Frontier County; in the mean time I would be Desirous of your Particular Orders in Regard of Embodying the Militia of this County, suppose I have issued out Orders already for that purpose, but your Orders would Enable me to procure Provisions for any party we can have stationed out on our Frontiers.

I am Sir, your Excelencys most obd^t
& very Humb^e Servt,
SAM^l HUNTER, Lieu^t N. C.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Supreme Executive Council, State of Pennsylvania.

Favored by Lieutenant Thomas Grant.

David Zeisberger to Colonel Brodhead, 1780.

Tupaking, April ye 2d, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I have Been very much disappointed In Sending you an Answer to your several Letters you wrote to me. This Place is Quite Out of the Way. No Indians which are Going to the Fort pass by here, & though I wrote to Mr. Edwards at Gnadenhutten Several Times, to let me know of an Opportunity, But all in Vain. In February some of our People were on the Way with them; I had also Wrote, but after Travelling a Day & a half they Turned Back, Because of the Deep Snow they met with.

In Your Letter of the 26th of November Last, you Desired me to Procure you some Intelligence from over the Lake, But which was not in my Power to Do, & Much less now, as I Live Such a Distance from Cooshocking, when I might, Perhaps, bring it about one way or Other. Joshua Intended to go, but the hard winter & deep Snow Comeing on, he dropt it.

But Hearing that a white man who Was a Prisoner among The Wiondots, & who was well acquainted, as I was Told, with all the Particulars at Detroit, Went by Gnadenhutten to the Fort last Winter, & I thought he Could & would Give you more Intiligence than any Indian Could Procure, Because Indians have not Knowledge about such matters, & I think it would be of very little service to Send an Indian on such an Errant, which is a Stranger to The Place.

In your Second letter of Febuary ye 10th, you proposed That Our Indians might Move nearer to the Fort.

Sir, this Indeed would not Only Be Very hard & Difficult, But also Impossible for us to undertake now, Except our People would Leave All Behind what they have, for they are not Like the Rest of the Indians, who can take their whole Estate on their Back, & go Where they Please, & though they might Go Round by water, we would not be Abel to Procure such a Number of Canews as it would Require.

Our People have Been Travelling & Moving from One Place to Another, till we at Last came here to this Place, where we hope to Remain in Possession of our Settelments, & Enjoy the Fruit of our Labour at Least for a Good many Years. I dare not think about moving, nor even Propose it to Our People, for it would Quite discourige them, Except there was Great Necessity; Therefore, Pray Sir, Let us Remain in Possession of our Setelments, have we held it out so Long, I hope, With the Help of God, we Shall Get over it till Peace is Restored again. Neither Warriors nor Other Indians Come to our Towns now, Because it is out of their Way, & we live very Quiet.

Of the Murder Committed on Racoon Creek I herd nothing Before I Received your letter. About Eight days Before we heard of a Company Warriors Being Tracked, which Came from Towards the Wiondots Towns, But we did not learn what Indians they was; they must Be Either Mingoes or Munzus, or of the Wisndoughalends Gang.

I have not herd of any hostile Thoughts among the Cooshocking Indians yet, & if I should Perceive any Thing of that kind I would give you Inteligence By an Express.

But Yesterday we heard that a Party of Warriors, among which was the well known Munzey Washnash, have attacted a Boat in the River, Killed Three men, & have Taken Twenty One Men, Women & Children, Prisoners, & Likewise the whole Boat, no Doubt this action will Encouriage Them to do more Mischief. I am much Oblidged for Sending me the three Packetts of letters at Different Times, & likewise for Communicating to me the agreeable News Contained in your letter. Those of our People which lived yett nigh Cooshocking, are now all moveing up this way, & in a few days More they will Be all Gone from thence.

I am With Great Esteem, Dear Sir,

your most Humble Servt,

DAV. ZEISBERGER.

P. S. Pray Sir, Send the following Letter, with a safe Opportunity to Lancaster.

COL. BRODHEAD, Commandt.

P. S. After I wrote the above I had mor full Intiligence. The Murder on Racoon Creek was Committed by the Wiondots & the Other on the Begg River By the Munsies, which is a True account.

Indorsed,

1780, April 2d, Copy of Mr. Zeisberger's letter to Colonel Brodhead.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, April 4, 1780.

Sir,

Agreeable to the request of General Washington, the board are about sending to Fort Pitt several species of Ordnance, but upon examining into the State of the Stores on hand, they find that they cannot intirely comply with his Excellency's wishes, unless it is convenient for the Hon'ble Council to return one of the 8 Inch

howitzers, lent the State of Pennsylvania some time ago, for the defence of Mud Island.

I have the honor to be,
with the highest respect,
your Excellencys most
obed. humble servant,
By order,

BEN. STODDERT, Secy.

Directed,

To his Excellency President Reed.
(War Office.)

Pres. Reed to Delegates in Congress, 1780.

Gent,

We some time ago acquainted you with the Destruction of the Barracks, under the care of the Continental Officers.—The Board of War, to whom the Matter was referred, thought it agreeable to remove the Barrack Master, but the Abuses & Mischief still continue; so that in a little Time these Buildings will be useless to the Publick. We have therefore thought it our duty to take them into our own immediate Care, & propose to appoint an Officer for that Purpose at the Expense of the State. But as from the nature of the Office, he will probably meet with occasional Opposition from Continental Officers military & Staff, we must request you to move Congress for an Order to their Officers generally to pay due Regard to the Barrack master who we think in his Departmant must be supreme. The Continental Troops will still enjoy the Benefits of the Barracks, but in consistency with the Interests of the state, for we are sorry to inform you that £1000 in Gold would not repair the Damages those Buildings have sustained the last Year only, & principally owing to neglect & Misconduct of those who were entrusted with the Care of them.

I am Gent.
with much Esteem & Consideration,
Your Obed. Hbble. sevt.

J. R.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1780.

Gentlemen,

We received your Favour of the 31. Inst* [ult] & are very sorry to find such an abuse of the publick Interests, as the sale of Cloathing should be deemed below or beyond Punishment. If a soldier sells his Cloaths, the articles of War present a severe Punishment. It was not to be supposed that an Officer would be guilty of so unbecoming & ungrateful an Action as making Merchandize of what the State had provided for his decent Appearance & Comfort, & therefore no Provision was made. But we beg Leave to submit it to your Consideration whether it does not fall under that Article of unofficer like & ungentlemanly Behaviour, under which we apprehend many Offences not described in the articles of War naturally fall. We cannot in Justice to the state think it ought to be passed over without farther Notice, & therefore are desirous the Board would put the Officers in the German Reg^t complained of in Col. Weltner's letter on Tryal, if it is not disagreeable to the Board to do it, if it is we shall think it best to lay it before the General for his Opinion & advice.

We received the inclosed Papers this morning on which we should be glad you would take such Measures for Relief as the Case requires.

I also inclose you a Commission which has been improperly directed to us; but so far as we are concerned are perfectly satisfied with the Resignation.

I am Gent. with much Respect &,

Regard Your Obed. Hble Servt.

Indorsed, April 4.†

Pres. Reed to Col. Weltner, 1780

Phila. April 4, 1780.

Sir,

I received your Favour by Capt. Shrawder, & acknowledge your Attention to the State with Respect to Capt. Rice, & his Lieutenants, we have laid the Matter before the Board of War, who we expect will give you Directions thereupon. Any Measures you may think proper to take to punish so ungrateful, & indecent a Transaction & prevent the like in future, will be agreeable to us, & I have no

* See page 153.

† See answer page 165.

Doubt but yourself & the other Officers view in the Light it deserves.

We also forwarded to the same Board the Case of Capt. Schott & Selin;* it would not be proper for us to decide a Point of military Promotion which seems to be the Province of military Gentlemen any Determination made by them will be acceptable to us, & meet our Concurrence. Since I wrote the above, I have received your Favour of the enclosing a Copy of Col. Butler's; I am extremely sorry for the bad News it contains, & hope you will exert yourself to give the poor People all the Protection you can. Col. Antis is appointed Contractor for the State, & will by the Time this Letter reaches you have received his Instructions. The Contractor of Lancaster County will probably also have Direction from the Commissr General, to forward a Part of the Supplies of that County to your Relief.

Rebuilding Fort Muncy has been deemed by many Persons here a very proper Measure. I beg you will consult Col. Hunter & Col. Antis, Mr Martin & other Gentlemen of the County on this Subject, & if they concur let this Business be set on Foot with as little Delay as possible.

I am sorry to find some misunderstanding, has happened between the Inhabitants of the County & Yourself. You must be sensible, of the very great Difference of Treatment which is necessary in this Country from that of Europe, and that it has a Tendency to alienate the Affection of the People from the Troops. Be assured nothing will more effectually promote your Interest with this Council than Tenderness, to the Persons, & Property of the Inhabitants, & we hope as this is the first Instance so it will be the last of any Complaint on this subject. We must particularly caution you against showing any Resentment against the Person complaining or the Gentlemen who have recommended his Complaint on this account, but on the other Hand, endeavour in a kind & friendly manner to set them right if they are wrong, or if you have been led into any Inadvertency or even strive to reconcile & settle it in an amicable Way.

Upon Considering the Conduct of Mr Rice, & his Lieutenant, some Gentlemen seem to think that if they had a Surplus of Cloaks & can appear on the Parade or elsewhere in suitable Apparell becoming their Rank that their Sale of their Cloathing may be deemed excusable; this may easily be known, & if it is found otherwise there can be no Doubt of the Propriety, of your considering them as Delinquents, & treating them accordingly.

I am sir, your most obbed & very,

Hble serv.

* See page 153.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 309.

Pres. Reed to Gen. Washington, 1780.

Sir,

By a late act of Assembly of this State for procuring a Supply of Flour Hay, Short Forage, Salt & Rum for the Use of the Continental Army, the Supreme executive are authorized & impowered to have the Same conveyed to such Ports & Places within the State as your Excellᵧ shall direct & appoint. Our Purchasers being appointed & acting in their several Offices, it now becomes necessary for me to request your Excellᵧ to make the above Appointment. The great Expenditure of Provisions & Forage in this State & particularly in this City will we fear soon consume the whole Supply if it could be procured before the next Harvest but as this cannot be done it will be the more incumbent to use the utmost Economy in the Distribution, and as Gen. Greene is on the Spot we shall communicate fully to him our sentiments not doubting his Concurrence & your Excellᵧ Approbation in the Retrenching of every unnecessary Expence. The daily Consumption of Hay in this Place is rated at 10 Tons upon the Calculation of 14℔ of Hay to each Horse there must be 1400 Horses fed in this City who will require near 4000 Tons in the Year whereas the whole Demand for the State is but 1700. We flatter ourselves that we shall be able to collect our full Proportion & that in the Mode of conducting the Business it will not be found necessary to keep up so many Posts in the Country which consumed the Supplies in a very great Proportion.

Agreeable to your Excellᵧᵉ Desire last fall we sent Notices into every Part of the Country for the Officers on Parole to go to New York we do not know of any who being on the Enemys List have refused or neglected except Col. Hannum of Chester County whose Reasons are set forth in the enclosed Papers which I send for your Excellᵧᵉ Perusal & Consideration. I am with every Sentiment of Respect & Regard.

Your Excellᵧᵉ most obed.
& very Hble Serv.
JOS. REED.

Indorsed,
April 4.

Instruction to Col. Bull, 1780.

In Council,
Philadelphia, April 5th, 1780.

Sir,

You being appointed Commissioner of Purchases for the County of Philadelphia and the necessity of entering upon that duty being very urgent and requiring the utmost diligence and atttention you will not fail to exert yourself to the utmost herein. Before you enter upon the execution of this trust you are to give bond for the faithful performance of your trust with one or more sufficient sureties. The sum required by the Council is thirty thousand pounds, and the inclosed bond being executed is to be deposited in the Office of the Prothonotary of your County who will judge of the Sufficiency of your bondsman. You are also to take an oath or affirmation, that you will diligently and faithfully without favour affection or partiality execute the Duty and trust reposed in you by an Act of General Assembly of this Commonwealth entitled "An Act for procuring a supply of provisions and other necessaries for the use of the Army."

You are to purchase the following articles within your County, not exceeding in price the rates affixed to each article to wit three hundred tons of hay at six pounds per ton, seventy five hundred bushels of Indian Corn at four Shillings per bushel, or fifteen thousand bushels of oats at two shillings and six pence per bushel, and five hundred barrels of flour at thirty shillings per hundred weight gross. The flour you are to deliver to Colonel Ephraim Blaines deputy and the forage you are to deliver to Owen Biddle Esquire who is appointed by the Quarter Master General to receive the same.

For the payment of the articles above mentioned money will be put into their hands as soon as it can possibly be got ready agreeably to the late Act of General Assembly.

I am Sir with much respect,
Your obedient and very humble Servant,
JOS. REED,
President.

To John Bull, Esquire, Commissioner of Purchases in the County of Philad^a.

Major Gen. Greene to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, 5th April, 1780.

Sir,

The inclosed return made to me by the Commy General of Forage will point out to your Excellency the districts in which, and the persons to whom it will be requisite to deliver Forage for the immediate subsistence of the public horses in this State. I request the favour of your Excellency to give the necessary orders to the State Purchasers accordingly.*

I have the honor to be with great Respect.

Sir,

your most obedt servant,

NATH. GREENE,
Q. M. G.

Indorsed,

From Gen. Greene, Read in Council April 5, 1780.

T. M. Secy.

Directed,

His Excellency the President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, April 6th, 1780.

Sir,

We received your favour of the 4th Instant.† The Board have an equal detestation with the Council of the Conduct of the Officers, who were ungentlemanly enough to dispose of their Cloathing, not only as the thing is in itself wrong, but as it tends in its example to disagreeable Consequences. It was not, therefore, from an aversion to having the Officers punished; but from a fear of not succeeding in their conviction, & that an unavailing attempt to Punish would but confirm the Practice, that the Board did not take means to have them arrested. If any conviction can be had, it must be under the Article mentioned in your Excellency's Letter, which depends upon

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 305.
† See page 159.

the Interpretation the officers on the court Martial choose to give to it. We will send Copies of the Letters which have passed on the subject, to the Commander in chief, and if he is of opinion that an Arrest & Tryal should be had, we will request him to order the officers to be immediately arrested.

We are extremely concerned at the Conduct of Col° Weltner, as set forth in Mr Byer's Memorial & Mr Maclay's Letter, Copies of which we will send to the General & give notice to Col° Weltner of the Complaint. If the commander in Chief shall deem it proper to order any other Regiment into that Quarter, we shall be perfectly satisfied—but we could wish Col° Weltner could be convinced of the impropriety of his Conduct, as the Removal of Troops is attended with many difficulties. At any rate (supposing the allegations against Col. Weltner to be true) we are of opinion it would be best to have another officer stationed as Commandant, for if Col. Weltner is unpopular, however Innocent, he will not have the Influence among the People such kind of service requires.*

We have the honor to be
with the highest respect,
your obed. Servts,

RICHARD PETERS,*
By Order.

Directed,
His Excellency President Reed.
(War Office)

Pres. Reed to Col. Samuel Hunter, 1780.

Philad., April 7, 1780.

Sir,

I have received your Favour of the 2d Instt† & laid it before the Council. We sincerely regret & sympathize with you on the unhappy state of your County in Consequence of the late Incursions of the Indians. As the German Regim. was procured with some Difficulty we flattered ourselves it would have given general satisfaction. Col. Weltner informs us that he is now straightened for Provisions, & we really have the greatest Difficulties in supplying him—in what Manner therefore we should furnish what would be necessary for a great Number of Militia in the present exhausted State of the

* See page 161. † See page 157.

Country I cannot be informed by any Person I have yet conversed with. You have had much Experience of Militia for some Time past, do you find that Aid to be effectual in repressing the Incursions of the Indians—Do they give effectual Checks to their Ravages—if they do & the Services they render the Inhabitants of the Frontiers compensate for the Expence & trouble which attend them we shall endeavour to give you this Assistance as soon as the State of the Militia will admit. I make no Doubt you have observed that the Militia Law expired this Spring, so that there is now a new Arrangement of that Business which will require Time & Industry. The Council have reappointed you to that Office & I trust the Compensation will now be more adequate to the Trouble. You will receive herewith the Militia Law—your Commission as Lieutenant & the like for the Sub Lieutenants. We would wish to give you all possible Relief & have as the first step sent up the Commissions of the Officers of the Company voted by the House for the Defence of the Frontier, we wish we could also add that we had sent Money to begin recruiting, but that is not in our Power for the Reasons mentioned in my Letter of yesterday—We shall also provide Ammunition, &c., & it is our earnest Desire that you would encourage the young Men of the Country to go in small Parties & harass the Enemy. In former Indian Wars it was frequently done & with great Advantage.—Anxious as we are to do you all the Service we can we have observed with Concern that our Measures for your Relief have been dreadfully expensive to the State with little Advantage to you, we do not recollect one single Instance of receiving a single Captive or Plunder, killing or taking any of the Enemy tho so many Pursuits have been attempted, which plainly shews that your Dependance on such distant Aid is very defective—The Council would & do for this Purpose authorize you to offer the following Premiums for every male Prisoner whether white or Indian if the former is acting with the latter 1500 Dollars & 1000 for every Indian Scalp. The Proof must be left to your own Discretion not doubting your Care to prevent Imposition—Last French War Secret Expeditions were set on foot by the Inhabitants which were more effectual than any Sort of defensive Operations. We most earnestly recommend it to you to revive that same Spirit & any Plan concerted with Secrecy & Prudence shall have our Concurrence & Support. The Commissary Gen. has ordered Provisions for the Troops which I hope will relieve the present necessity. We have not been able to procure the Votes of the Assembly so as to send the recruiting Instructions with the Commissions, but as soon as the Clerk of the House returns to Town we will forward them & we hope accompanied with Money, which we apprehend to be more necessary than the Commissions. In the mean Time if the Gentlemen accept & are able to procure Men we hope they will do it, & if the County can subsist them for the present we will defray the Expence. Our Situation is so critical & difficult that your own Exertions must now be depended on—& with the

Assistance of the German Regiment, which is considered no inconsiderable Support, we trust your Difficulties will grow less.

I am Sir, with much Esteem,

your obed. & very

Hbbl Serv.

Genl. St. Clair to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp near Morris Town, April 8th, 1780.

Sir,

I was yesterday waited upon by a Deputation from the Surgeons and Mates of the Line to inform me that they designed to resign their Commissions and appointments on the 20th Day of May next, and requesting that I might give notice to the State of their such Design, that it might be in the Power of the Executive Branch to provide others in Season. This was occasioned by certain Proceedings of Congress of the 3d of January Last, published in Dunlap's Paper of the 18th of March, which they brought with them, and by which it appears the Allowance of half Pay for seven Years for them was refused, and the Gratuity in Lands lost on the Question by a Division of the House. I represented to them that they did not depend upon Congress for either, but upon the State, which had, by a Law, entitled them to half Pay for Life, and a Gratification in Lands, but as I had not the Law I could not convince them; nor indeed am I certain that I was right, for I have an imperfect remembrance of some Words in the Law, as it stood when published for Consideration, which would perhaps exclude them by a rigid Interpretation. I went however so far as to assure them it was my constant Opinion that the State intended them the same Advantages as all other Officers in the Line, and that if there was any Doubt about it, or any ambiguous Expression by which that intention might possibly be defeated, I was certain an amendment would be made at the next Session. I am pretty sure that I have not mistaken the Intention of the Assembly, but it will be very satisfactory if you will please to mention your Sentiments, and if they coincide with what I have said will make them easy—and the Resignation of all the regimental medical People at once, besides that they cannot be wanted, would have an ill Effect upon Many in a different Walk. Would be glad that Congress would take the Matters of the Army up upon one large uniform Scale, and not lay themselves and others under the Necessity of continual patching.

As I expect soon to have the Honour to pay you my Respects in Philadelphia, any Answer you may think proper to send to this

you will please to direct either for me or the Officer commanding the Division.

I am Sir,

with great Respect and Esteem

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

A^r ST. CLAIR.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Maj^r Genl St. Clair.

Owen Biddle to Andrew Doz, 1780.

Philad^a, 8th April, 1780.

Sir,

I have this moment received Sixty four horses belonging to the public from the Delaware State where they can be no longer; besides these there are forty which Col^l Mitchel ordered to Northwales which have had no feed these 24 hours, as the person who has the care of them informs me. We are intirely destitute of every kind of provender; our reliance is wholly upon the State Commissioners for a supply. If you cannot make an immediate provision for the support of these horses they must perish, (as I cannot obtain authority to dispose of them.) A circumstance of this nature will be attended with a loss of an immense Sum to the United States, and likewise prove the source of many difficulties to the army.

I do therefore request your utmost exertions to help us in this pressing emergency.

I am with due esteem,

Your Obed^t hum^e Servt,

OWEN BIDDLE,

Ass. C. G. Forage.

Directed,

Public Service.

Andrew Doz, Esquire, Commiss^ry of Purchases, Philadelphia.

Forage Office.

Pres. Reed to Rev. Joseph Montgomery, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Your Favour of the 2d Inst. has been duly received. We feel & thank you for your kind Attention to the distressed Inhabitants of the Frontiers, & hope while you stay among them your kind Consolations as well as friendly Advice will not be wanting. It has been in many Respects a most distressing Event & affects us the more as the Exhausted State of the Treasury & the Renovation of the Militia Law deprive us of the Means of giving the expected Relief. The amazing Slowness in Collecting publick Taxes hangs like a Millstone round the Neck of all our publick Operations—we can scarcely command sufficient for the small & common Purposes of civil Government, & in the Predicament Congress calls daily & loudly—the Frontiers exclaim with Anguish, & we are now reduced to the painful Necessity of listening to Distress we cannot relieve & Claims we cannot satisfy—the poor People like the Waggoner in the Fable, must put their own Shoulders to the Wheel as well as call on Hercules.—On these Occasions our Aid is so distant that I do not recollect an Instance when it has proved effectual. We will endeavour to supply them with Ammunition, Provisions, & such like Assistance; we will give Rewards to those who distinguish themselves—in short we will do any Thing to create that Spirit which is so necessary in an Indian War, a Spirit of Hostility & Enterprize which will carry our young Men to their Towns.—Surprizes, Ambuscades, &c, have been & I fear will be found the only true Weapons to fight the Savages.—One offensive Expedition formerly gave Peace to the Western Frontiers—is not this now practicable; if any Object presents might we not resume that System? I am persuaded nothing else will do.—The whole Continental Army with the Riches of half America to support it would not prevent these Ravages if they do not feel the Distress they inflict on others. I do not mean Expeditions on a great Scale of military Parade, but secretly concerted, prudently conducted, & adapted to the Nature of the Enemy.

With many kind Wishes & much Esteem,

I am Dear Sir,

Your Affect. &

Obed. Hble Serv.

Directed,

To The Revd. Mr. Joseph Montgomery at Sunbury.

Indorsed April 8.

Lt. Col. Weltner to Board of War, 1780.

Northumberland, April 9th, 1780.

Hon'd Sir,

Inclosed I send you a Copy of the deposition of one Peter Bens who was lately taken prisoner by the Indians on the 29th of March last and happily made his escape with three more of his fellow sufferers.

I have been informed by letter from Captain Selin stationed at Wyoming that there were three of the Inhabitants of that place taken prisoners by another party of Indians and also made their escape, killed two and wounded three of the Indians and brought in six rifles, one sword and two Tomahawks. They say upon their way up the river, they fell in upon two parties of Indians, one party 25 and the other 8 coming down to fall on the West Branch.

I have this moment received an express from the West Branch about twelve miles from this Town that the Indians have killed and scalped one man and two Children, took one woman prisoner, but she happily made her escape from them in the night. The Country is very much alarmed, and likely to go to the flight as they cannot be supplied with provisions, ammunition, or flints, these Commodities being so very scarce. I have manned three material out posts, vizt, Fort Jenkins, Fort Montgomery and Bosleys mills. It is out of my power to scatter my men any more, as I have scarcely as many men in Town as will man 2 pieces of artillery.

Without there is a reinforcement sent to man the West Branch, I do really think the Inhabitants will not be able to stand their ground, as also a sufficient quantity of provisions, or I will be obliged to evacuate the post myself.

I am Gentlemen your
most obt Servt

LUD. WELTNER, Lt Colo.
Comt.

Copy.

Directed,
Hon'ble Board of War Philadelphia.

Wm. Maclay to Council, 1780.

Sunbury, April 9th, 1780.

Sir,

A Number of Prisoners, who were taken by the Indians, and carried near Tioga, are just come in, having rose on the Indians killed some, dispersed the Rest and compleatly effected their Escape: while in Possession of The Indians they had the following information: That one hundred Indians left Niagara last Fall. That they rec'd as much Cloathing as they wanted, each man four Blankets, when they came about Tioga, they found Fat Cattle which they killed, and built Themselves Houses. They gave the Prisoners some of the Beef which was very Fat. That these hundred Indians all set off to war, when they did. (N. B. we know only of three Parties having been down on this County, all of whom by the best Accounts, amount to about forty.) That they expected Col. Brant with one hundred & fifty Warrriors every day. That as soon as the Leaves were green five hundred and fifty Indians would strike at different Places between Schenectady and Fort Pitt. That the British at Niagara, paid them fifty shillings for a Scalp & five pounds for a Prisoner. That Three Towns were left untouched, by Gen[l] Sullivan, one of them a very large one: The Prisoners spoke to them of Peace, they said some Mohawks had mentioned it to them But they would make none. Col. Hunter this moment calls on me, a fourth Party of Indians, struck last night at nine o'Clock at his Plantation on the West Branch of Susquehannah about fifteen miles from this Place; a man and Child were killed and a Woman taken; we do not know the Strength of this Party; The Inhabitants have been flying this week past; I believe there will not be one Family in Northumberland Town Before to morrow morning. I will not attempt describing our distress. The German Reg[t] are posted at four different Places, But I do not find that they ever stir a foot out of their posts without some other Support, it seems likely That this County will be totally abandoned.

And while the English continue to supply the Indians at Niagara, pay them and support them as at Present, Peace with the Indians (in my opinion) is unatainable. We ought to have Niagara cost what it will; The Reasons, to me at least appear many & strong; The French of Detroit would instantly declare for us, and by means of their Influence, The indian Disturbances would be quelled in the Whole western Region, to the mouth of the Ohio. No Pass perhaps in the World commands the Communication of so great an Extent of Inland Country; of what vast Consequences to the united States, would the Possession of this place be? should a Treaty of Peace come on the Carpet. A Small armey well equipped, secrecy and dispatch are most certainly all that can be necessary for this

Purpose. You may easily guess that I am much hurried and far from being easy in mind, as I have my Family amidst this Confusion. I am however in good health and with great Regard.

Sir y^r most obed^t & most Hble Servt

W^m. MACLAY.

Dear Sir,

As I have not time to Write Endeavouring to Raise a party to follow those Savages, my Sentiments is Contained in the above Letter.

Your Humb^l Servt

SAM^l HUNTER.

Directed,

Public Service.

Timothy Matlack Esquire Secretary to the Hon'ble Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

☞ favour of Captn Boyd.

Resolve of Congress, 1780.

April 10th, 1780.

Resolved,

That it be and hereby is recommended to the Governors or Presidents of the several States, who grant commissions for private vessels of War, that on the back of the commission there be inserted a minute description of the persons of the captain and his lieutenant, with their age, stature, complexion & respectively certified by the Governor or President under his seal of office.

That where commissions commonly called letters of Marque and reprisal, are granted to armed vessels going on mercantile voyages, the master and his chief mate be required to undersign their clearances in the presence of the naval officer of the port, who is also to insert on the back of the clearance a minute description of the persons of the master and chief mate, with their age, stature, complexion &c. respectively, and to certify the same under his signature & seal of office.

Extract from the minutes.

GEO. BOND, Dep'y sec'y.

Don Juan De Miralles to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Mon trés cher Monsieur,

Devant Expedier promptem^t la Schonner Buk Skin, Cap. John Wilson, pour porter des Paquets au Gouverneur de la Havana; je Souhaite envoyer par lad^t ocasion trente Barrils de farinne pour la Provision, de ma famille & de mes Parents, en consequence je prends la liberté de vous prier Monsieur de vouloir m'en accorder la Permission de quoy je vous en aurez une veritable reconnoissance.

J'ay l'honneur d'etre avec tout le Respect &c.

Monsieur Votre trés hum & trés ob^t servit^r,

JUAN^t De MIRALLES.*

Ce 10 avril, 1780.

A Son Exc^e Jos^h Reed, Esq.

Saml. Hodgdon to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, April 10th.

Sir,

A few days since I waited on you with a request from the hon'ble Board of War for an Order for One of the eight howitzers belonging to the Continent, (by loan) now in the possession of this State—and I have called several times since, for answer, but not having the happiness to find your Excellency at home, have taken the liberty to request that I may be favoured (by the bearer or as soon after as is convenient,) with an order for obtaining the hoit, as the Gentleman who is to take it in charge is arrived from Camp.

With due respect,

I am Your most Obt. Servt.,

SAML. HODGDON, D. C. G. Ms.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., Present.

Com. Gen. Mil. stores Office.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII, p. 315. He is allowed to ship 30 barrels of flour as requested above.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, April 11, 1780.

Sir,

We have the honour to enclose you a copy of a resolution of Congress passed this day, directing us to apply to your Excellency & the Supreme executive council of this State for a quantity of forage necessary for the preservation of the public horses at this post. We shall immediately take measures to ascertain the number of horses here which are the property of the United States, and agreeably to the determination of Congress the issues of forage will be restricted to them: in the mean time we earnestly request your Excellency and the Honble Council will be pleased to cause fifty tons of hay & five hundred bushels of Indian Corn or other short forage equivalent to be furnished to the deputy quarter master general at this post as speedily as possible, as the horses are in the utmost danger of starving. Of the additional quantity of forage which will be wanted here, we will inform your Excellency when we have ascertained the number of horses to be fed.

We have the honour to be with great respect,

your Excellency's

most obed^t Servant,

By order of the Board,

TIM. PICKERING.

P. S. We are now informed that after this night there will be no forage for any of the public horses.

Directed,

To His Excellency The President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, April 11th, 1780.

Resolved, that the Board of War cause enquiry to be made concerning the State of the Horses referred to in the Letter from J. Cox of the 9th and take order for the preservation of such as are the property of the United States—and for that purpose that the Board request of the President & supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania so much of the forage to be furnished by the said State agreeably to the resolution of Congress of 25th February last as the Board may think necessary

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec'y.

Pres. Reed to Col. Jacob Stroud, &c., 1780.

Gentlemen,

We received your Favour by Mr Kortright & sympathize with you in the Distress which this unexpected and cruel Invasion of the Savages has occasioned. We have as the first Step of Relief delivered Mr Kortright 200lb of Powder 800 Lead & 500 Flints which will be delivered by him to Mr Kacklin Lieutenant of the County to be forwarded to the Places where most wanted. We must recommend to you great care in keeping as well as Oeconomy in using the Ammunition as it is grown a very scarce & difficult Article to be procured. We have also directed Col. Kacklin to order out a Class of the Militia on Tour of Duty to march up to your Townships with as little Delay as possible. At the same Time we cannot help expressing our Apprehensions that the Benefit you will derive from them will not be any way proportioned to the expence, Trouble & Difficulty occasioned by the Measure. We have often used the same Expedient but do not recollect that any Captive or Plunder was regained thereby or any of the Savages killed—We would therefore recommend to you to encourage the young Men to hire out in small Parties to endeavour to strike the Enemy near Home & give them the Alarm for their own Safety. We would gladly support & promote such a Measure & have therefore authorized the Lieutenant of the County to offer 1500 Dollars for every Indian or Tory Prisoner taken in Arms against us & 1000 Dollars for every Indian Scalp. We are fully satisfied that the Frontiers will never have Peace while the Country waits for the Enemy but on the other Hand it will be in their Power with few and small Parties to harass & distress them greatly.

Mr Vancampen being well acquainted with many of our publick Difficulties & particularly the State of our Treasury it will easily be seen how difficult it is to do more than we have done, & we are persuaded you will believe that nothing has been wanting or shall be to relieve & support you. I am Gentlemen,

Your most Obed.

& very Hble Servt.

P. S. Having had sundry loose Complaints against your Paymaster Mr Beam we have frequently wrote to him but as no particular Charge is brought & he denies having given any Cause of Complaint we must desire you to point out the Persons & Circumstances who have been so long kept out of their Money that Justice may be done which is our hearty Wish & Desire.

Directed,

To Col. Jacob Stroud John Vancampen & Nicholas Depui Esqrs Northampton County.*

Indorsed, Ap. 11, 1780.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 312,

JAMES GAMBLE TO CONGRESS, 1780.

Philadelphia, Aprill 11th, 1780.

To the Honourable Congress,

Your Memoralists name hath been taken down for a militia man, which I wou'd Cheerfully consent to, did I not labour under many disagreeable circumstances, which I am in hopes your Honours will consider, The first is this being bred to the sea, I have never learnt the use of small arms, nor been accustomed to long marches, not only that but unfortunately I Shipt on Board the Brig Betsy of this port, in March 1776 for Cork & to return here Immediately again, but instead of that our owners York & Dowers, had gave private Instructions to sell the Vessel, so after discharging our Cargo at Cork, we got orders to proceed to Bristol in England, there sold the Vessel, and I chose rather to return whome to Ireland than enter into the British service, though I had many offers of preferment, I staid at whome 8 years, still expecting an oppertunity of returning here again, but cou'd get none till, at last I ventured to ship from Londonderry to Jamaica, from thence I shipt on Board the Sloop Terriable Bound to Newyork; but on our passage the 29th of August last, with the assistance of 3 New england lads I Captur'd the Vessel, and Brought her in here, from these Circumstances I hope your Honours will excuse me from Militia duty, But if your Honours Should think proper to order me on board any your Ships of War, or shou'd the enimy advance towards this City I will Cheerfully comply with your Honours orders, your Honours sees the danger of my falling into the Enimays hands better than I can describe therefore I cou'd wish to be Stationed in that Situation where I might be able to defend myself from the merciless enimy.

From your Honours
Most obedient Servt.
JAMES GAMBLE.

Directed,

To The Honourable Continental Congress.

C. J. Thos. McKean to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

The Bearer, Serjeant George Dalzell, brought a prisoner from York town Goal to this city for trial, by order of the Sheriff of York county, who paid him in part for his trouble (as the Bearer says) thirty dollars. I must beg leave to refer him to Council for further compensation. The prisoner was accused of guiding the Enemy to the crooked billet,* and of being very active in the cruelties perpetrated there on the Militia of this State, but the principal Witness, who was likewise confined in York town Goal, has made his escape.

I am, Sir, with very great regard,

Your most obedient servant,

THO. M'KEAN.

Philadelphia, April 11th, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of Pennsylvania.

By Serjeant Geo. Dalzell.

Geo. Wall to Genl. Lacey, 1780.

My friend,

I have been just now informed from good authority, which I believe to be true, that Coogler had a large store of wheat concealed in his garret, while the enemy was in Philadelphia, and that the Tories brought it there in the night—his House has been a Continual Rendezvous for Tories, Refugees and Deserters ever since the war, and it is my opinion he now holds a Correspondence with the enemy, his Ferry and all his Boats ought to be taken from him, as he does a Deal of Mischief in Crossing Disaffected People over in these lines. He is a Person whose general Conduct has been an enemy to the States, as well as many of his neighbours.

GEORGE WALL.

Directed,

For General Lacey.

Indorsed, From Gen. Wall, Agent for Confiscated Estates, Bucks Co., April 12, 1780.

* See Vol. VI., p. 471, 500.

PRES. REED TO GOV. GEO. CLINTON OF N. Y., 1780.

Philad^a. April 12th, 1780

Sir,

Your Favour of the 11th March* has been duly received & in Answer thereto beg Leave to inform your Excell^y That the Provision made for the Pennsylvania Troops in Addition to the Pay & Allowance of Congress are as follows. To the Officers, One Uniform suit, consisting of a Coat, Waistcoat 2 Pair Breeches, 3 Shirts, 3 pair of Stockings, 3 pair of Shoes & 3 Stocks annually during their being in actual Service. To every Officer & Private during such Service certain enumerated Articles of Stores consisting of Rum, Sugar, Tea, Coffee & Soap, in the follow^g Proportions viz. For each Ration ℔ Week, one Pint of Rum at the Rate of 5s. ℔ Gall. ½ lb Sugar at the Rate of ⅔ ℔ lb, 1 oz of Tea at 12s. ℔ lb, ¼ lb Tobacco at 9d ℔ lb hard Soap at ½ ℔ lb.

By a Law of the State the half Pay given by Congress for 7 Years is extended to life under certain Limitations & Restrictions. And at the last Sessions the House of Assembly voted Land in the following Proportions, viz.

A Major Genl.	2000 Acres.
A Brigadier	1500
A Colonel	1000
Lt Col.	750
Surgeon	600
Major	600
Chaplain	600
Captain	500
Lieutenant	400
Ensign	300
Sergeant	250
Private	200

These lands to be free from Taxes while in the Hands of the immediate Grantee. The Widow or Children of every Officer or Soldier falling in Battle is entitled to the Land the Husband or Father would have had if he had lived.

The Provision for disabled Soldiers is a Pension ordered by the Orphan's Court of the County payable by the County Treasurer not exceeding half Pay & Rations. The Provision for Widows & Orphans is under the same Direction but the Court has a discretional Power as to the Amount of the Pension or Annuity.

Thus, I have endeavoured to give your Excell^y a compendious View of our System it doubtless admits of many Amendments, but hitherto it has proved satisfactory to the Army. In the hasty Removal from this City on the Invasion of the Enemy, the whole of our Laws passed to that Period were left so as to fall into the Enemy's Hands. It is in Contemplation to print a new edition as soon as

* See page 132.

that is done or if any of the Missing Copies can be procured I shall immediately forward a complete Sett. I esteem myself happy in this & every other Occasion to express the Respect & Esteem with which I am,

Your Excell'y
Most Obed. & very
Hble Servt

Directed,
His Excell'y George Clinton Esq. Govr. of the State of New York.

Gen. Geo. Washington to Pres. Reed.

Head Qrs. Morris Town, April 12, 1780.

Sir,

Since I had the Honor of addressing your Excellency on the 9th Instant & of transmitting you at that time a Letter of the 26th ult. on the subject of the Supplies to be furnished by your State in consequence of the Act of Congress of the 25th of February—I have more maturely considered the point, with respect to the places at which they should be deposited; and I beg leave to inform you it appears me, that they should be collected at the following places & in the proportions set against them respectively.

Places of Deposit.	Barrels Flour.	Gal's Rum.	Hay.	Corn Bu'ls.
Fort Pitt	2,400	7,000	150	7,500
Ligonier	300	850	40	2,000
Bedford	300	850	40	2,000
Carlisle	800	4,000	80	4,000
Yorktown	100	280	40	2,000
Estherton	200	1,000	20	1,000
Sunbury	1,000	3,000	60	3,000
Wyoming	500	1,500	40	2,000
Lancaster	500	1,200	180	14,000
Lebanon	200	500	200	10,000
Reading	200	560	180	14,000
Easttown	20,000	1,000	200	70,000
Philadelphia	13,500	3,083	470	68,500
	40,000	24,428	1,700	200,000

The ultimate places of deposit of the salt must be governed by the requisition of the Commissary General. I have the Honor to be with the greatest respect and esteem.

Yr Excellency's
Most Obedt Servant,
Gs. WASHINGTON.*

Directed,
His Excell'y President Reed.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XII., p. 318, and p. 145 of this.

Col. L. Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

Two sailors who left the Guard ship last saturday morning say the fleet consisting of 23 sail, viz., the rainbow of 40 Guns, the only king's ship, the rest ships & brigs, except 6 schooners & sloops, sailed on Friday afternoon. The vessels were crowded with soldiers, said to be 2000; their destination not known. In New York harbour the Russel of 74 & 2 sloops of war, they know nothing of another embarkation. It was reported many inhabitants of New York were preparing to remove to Charleston. None of the Cork fleet as yet arrived, several of them are supposed to have been forced to the west indies by the severity of the weather.

Permit me to assure you that I am, with respect,

Your Excellencies most obed't servt.,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

April 18th, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, President of the State.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1780.

Gentlemen:

I received your Favour of the 11th* Inst. requesting us to cause 50 Tons of Hay & 500 Bushels of Indian Corn to be delivered to the Dr Qr Mr—and also inclosing a Resolution of Congress to the like Effect, both which have been laid before the Council. As they are evidently founded upon a Mistake, it is thought necessary to give you a State of the Business, which it is apprehended will afford you the Information necessary to rectify it. Before we had Money or Means to procure any Supplies, & even before the Appointment of our Officers, we were called upon to find publick Horses then starving. In addition to the Number constantly kept at this Post, we were informed that the Inhabitants of Delaware State, tho' abounding in Forage, had refused to keep what were sent into that State upon Credit, & 140 were arrived in this City, & more might be expected. We in Haste appointed our Officers, & sent them to work on Credit; they were so successfull as to procure an immediate Supply;—But, to know the Extent of the Necessity, & the Provision to be made, they were sent to the Forage Master in this City to ascertain the Issue;—by him they were told, that the average Consumption

* Page 175.

of this City was 10 Tons ℔ Day, which, at 14lb. for each Horse, supposes 1400 Horses in this City to be provided by the publick. Large as the Consumption appeared, we were endeavouring to provide as far as we could for present Necessity—for as to procuring Hay at this Time sufficient for such a Consumption, it is impossible; it is not to be had for any Money or at any Price whatever; it really does not exist. While we were exerting ourselves to the utmost, & straining our personal Influence & Credit, the Commissioner for Purchases informed me last Sunday, that 64 poor Horses were just arrived from Delaware, in Addition to the former, for that the People would keep them no longer; 200 are also sent up by Chester County. I then spoke to Mr Cox, assistant Qr Master, upon the Subject, & asked him why the City was made the Receptacle of the poor Horses from other States; he informed me that the People would not keep them, not because they had not Forage, but because they would not give farther Credit. I then told him that it could answer no Purpose for the Preservation of the Horses to bring them here, because, however willing the People might be to assist & give the Credit refused by others, there was not Forage—that the old Stock was so near exhausted, that, unless Impossibilities were expected, the Horses must also die here. That to support the present Consumption was impracticable; & therefore to add to it by pouring in all the poor Horses from distant Posts would only increase & accumulate the Distress. Upon this, we suppose, the Representation was made, & the Resolve & your Letter framed, which implies an Ability we do not possess, unless it is intended to consume the whole Stock on Hand in a few Days, & leave the Distress of to morrow wholly unprovided for, however important & necessary its Demands. We have this Day called upon the Commissioners to know, not what can be procured so as to serve the Consumption at this Post, but what there is within Reach; & are informed they cannot learn that there are more than 100 Tons—except about half this Quantity heretofore engaged by the Quarter Masters, & which still is upon League Island, belonging to one Kinny, & which our Commissioners were in Pursuit of to satisfy the present Exigence, when they were informed that it had been already sold to the Publick.

We beg Leave now to inform you that there are above 3000 Horses in this State, which have been kept thro' this Winter on Credit—that we have used our Influence on the Inhabitants to continue still to keep them; that there are now 20 Millions of Dollars due to the People of this State from the Commissary & Quarter Master's Departments on Certificates—that our Treasury is quite exhausted for Continental Demands, so that the most minute Expences of Government are unpaid—that under these Circumstances we do hope the Burthen may not go on to be increased beyond what we are able to bear. And that Congress would do us the Justice to believe we are directing our whole Time, Labour & Credit & Influence to relieve

the present Crisis. If you think this Information would be of any Use to Congress, you have our Consent to give it. I am, Gent.,
Your Obed. & very Hble Servt.

Philadelphia Library Co. to Council, 1780.

Gentlemen:

The Subscribers being a Committee appointed by a board of Directors of the Philadelphia Library Company to make "application "to the proper Persons or Powers for obtaining a safe Passport for "sundry Books intended for the said Company, now lying at New York," beg leave to lay the minute of the board, Letter of Advice & List of said books before the honorable Council, and request the favor of their Advice & Assistance in compleating the object of their appointment.

We are,
with sentiments of Esteem and Respect,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient,
humble Servants,*
JOSIAH HEWES,
JO. STANSBURY.

Philadelphia, 14th April, 1780.

Directed,

To His Excellency the President, Vice President and Members of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Col. Stephen Moylan to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Colchester, 14th April, 1780.

Sir,

The Resolve of Congress passed the 15th March, 1779, respecting the Corps of Light Dragoons, has but very lately come to my knowledge, probably owing to the duty of that part of the Army which I have the honeur to command, being generally employed on the enemies Lines; and of course we are not regularly supplied with the General Orders.

I have furnished his Excellency the Commander in Chief with a General Return, conformable to that Resolve—and take this opportunity of inclosing a Return of those in the 4th Regiment, who belong to the State of Pennsylvania, which I beg you will lay before the house, or those who are authorized by the executive part of the Government to attend to that business.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 318.

If your Excellency should think it necessary to have a Return of those whose times have expired, & are discharged, belonging to your State, I will, on receipt of your orders, make one out.

Mr John Sullivan, mentioned in this Return as belonging to the state, has not been long enough in America to have gained a Settlement in any part of the United States, but as I made him the offer of a Lieutenancy in the Regiment during his Sojourn in Philadelphia, I have Sett him down as appertaining to Pennsylvania, which is agreeable to the Resolve of Congress before mentioned, he is a young gentleman of some fortune, and one that I have every reason to think, will do honor to himself, and to the State of which he is to be a member.

I have great satisfaction in assuring the Legislature of Pennsylvania, that no men in the army have done their duty with more alacrity than those in the 4th Regiment of Light Dragoons, who belong to that State, have done.

I have have the honor to be,

Sir, your most obedt H. St,

STEPHEN MOYLAN.

Directed,

Publick Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the State of Pensylvania, Philadelphia.

Gen. Hand to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp, near Mendham, April 14th, 1780.

Sir,

I am sorry to be obliged to inform your Excellency that Desertion still prevails in the 4th & 11th Penna Regiments to a shameful and surprising degree; no less than 24 have gone off from the 4th, & from the 11th 41 have gone since the present year commenced. I apprehend many of them have gone towards Philadelphia, in order to get on Board some of the ships of war that sail from the Delaware; have therefore intrusted Capta McGowen of the 4th, & Capta Jackson of the 11th, who are now in Philadelphia, to endeavour to secure as many of them as possible; and as I can't possibly furnish them with parties to assist them in the execution of this duty, have taken the liberty of directing them to wait on your Excellency, not doubting your readiness to give them every advice and assistance necessary on the occasion.

I have the Honour to be, Sir,

with much respect,

Your Exoys most obedt

& most Hble. Servant,

EWDd HAND.

His Excell'y, Joseph Reed, Esqr.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, April 15th, 1780.

Resolved,

That any State which shall furnish the officers of the hospital and medical staff, belonging to such state in the service of the United States, with such articles of cloathing as those officers are respectively entitled to, by a resolution of Congress of the 20th November, 1779, and make returns thereof to the Clothier general, shall have credit for such supplies in their account with the United States.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec^y.

Indorsed,

1780, April 18th, Resolve of Congress, recommending supplys for Officers of Hospital and Medical staff.

United States Treasurer to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

We inclose you a state of the Tax account of Pennsylvania, to which we beg your attention. We shall be careful to confine our Reports for Warrants, to the exact Amount, and, as large Sums are due from the United States to the Inhabitants of the State, shall, as far as possible, appropriate the Continental Taxes thereof within the same, which we suppose will be both more convenient & more agreeable. Cases may occur in which this Rule cannot be adhered to, but they will not be more frequent than is absolutely necessary. The Draught lately made, and those now making, are intended to discharge, as far as practicable, Debts now owing from the Public, as well as to keep the supplies from failing in the Interim, till the State Purchases take Effect. The Resolution of Congress of the 18th of March, ult., will shew the Reason of including the Taxes of January and February, 1780. I have the Honor to be, with the greatest Respect,

your Excellencys most obedient
and very humble servant,
By order,

JOHN GIBSON,
President.

United States Treasury Office, Philadelphia, 18 April, 1780.

Directed,

To his Excellency President Reed.

JOHN MITCHELL TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Philadelphia, 15 April, 1780.

Sir,

Major Benj. Eyres having compleated the Carpenters Work necessary at the Bridge over Schuylkill at the Middle Ferry, and being in great want of money, having advanced a considerable part of the sum to the Workmen, being at present destitute of Cash to discharge the Debts of my Department, and aprehencive that it will be attended with great loss to Major Eyres if he is not paid; and he having informed me of his aplication to your Excellency and the Hon'ble the Executive Council, for relief & assistance, and in consequence of such aplication, had received a Letter from the Secretary of the Hon'ble Council, in which they have been pleased to express their Willingness to grant the assistance necessary for this purpose, If aplied for by me, with promise to repay the sum out of the first Warrant, or moneys Granted by the Hon'ble the Continental Congress, for the Payment of the Quarter Master Generals Debts.

I beg leave to return your Excellency & the Council my sincere acknowledgement for your assistance, and will take care that out of the first moneys coming into my Hands for Publick uses, the sum advanced by you shall be punctualy repaid. There is some Iron Work yet necessary to be done to the Bridge, but the Workmen refuse to go on with it without a promise of immediate pay; this I am not in a condition to perform, from the reasons before given, but as I have Publick Iron sufficient, the expence of the Workmanship will not, I believe, be above three or four thousand Dollars. If your Excellency and the Council will be pleased to enable me to compleat this Work, it will make the Bridge perfectly secure, and I will repay this sum with the other out of the first moneys that come to my hands for Publick use.

I have the Honor to be,
with great respect,
your Excellencys most
obed. humble servt,
Jo MITCHELL, D. Q. M. Gl.*

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 317, 321.

Christian Wirtz to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lancaster, April 15th, 1780.

Sir,

I am sorry that I am necessitated to take your attention, with respect to the purchasing of supplies according to the directions of Council, at so early a period.

Since my appointment as Commissioner of Purchases, and return from the City, I have been through the different parts of the County, appointing Assistants, but, very reluctantly, am obliged to inform you that they have since made report, their not being able to purchase a single Article, on the credit of the money to be emitted, of this, I have also had experience; those supplies which I have procured (& but trifeling) have been on my own Credit.

The Demands of Forage made by Col. Marsteller, Commissary of Forage, are very pressing and extensive, even too large to be collected at this Time of the Season.

There are distributed in this County between Four and Five hundred Continental Horses, exclusive of Teams, &c., which are all made returns of to me. These inevitably will consume large Quantities of Food, and in the present situation I am unable to provide sufficient to supply them. The old Department have not a handful of any kind of Forage in Store, notwithstanding considerable quantities, outstanding and uncollected, still the demands by the Commissary of Forage are made so very pressing upon me. I farther understand that two thirds of the Horses are fit for service. For a more particular account of the circumstances we are in, I refer your Excellency to my son and assistant in the Department, who is the bearer of this Letter.

I have the Honor to be,

your Excellencys most

obd. & Humble Servt,

CHRISTIAN WIRTZ,

Commr of Purs for Lancaster Coy.

Directed,

(On public Service.) To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia.

Col. Harmar to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp, near Morris Town, April 16th, 1780.

Sir,

As the Inspecting and Mustering Departments are now incorporated, I do myself the Honor of transmitting your Excellency an abstract of the Muster of the Pennsylvania Division for last month.

The Troops are in great Want of Hats, Shirts, and Blankets, otherwise they are as well (if not better) clothed than any other in the Army.

I shall continue to render your Excellency, at future Muster, a state of the Division, and am,

with the greatest Respect,
your Excellencies most
h'ble & obed^t serv^t,

JOS. HARMAR,
Lt Col. Com^t 6th P. R.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Honored ℔ General St. Clair.

Col. Jacob Stroud to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lower-smithfield April ye 17, 1780.

Gentlemen,

The Incouragements we have received from your Honour by Mr. Courtright has Proved a great Satisfaction to our Bleeding Cuntry and their Distress which we hope that by our Receiving assistance and making a stand may be a Remedy of some Relief to our Distressed frontiers and put Some Stop to Incursions of the Indians being so great that we are putting our Selves in the best Situation Lying in our Power of Defenc and Keeping out Small Scouts in order to Discover them afor they fall on the Inhabitants and are in hopes that the body of the Enemy is not so many at this time as we doe Expect will be when Ever the weather gets more warmer.

I would be very fond of Embracing an opportunity of Informing you of better times with us than what I am able at this present time but must acquaint of the incursions of the Indians Sinse we wrote to y^r Honours that they have taking Samuel Gonsallies and John Dayley Prisoners uppon which we Immediately Sen-

out two Scouts which followed them Some Distance and one of the scouts Returned without success the other Scouts has not, which we hope will have success which happened a few miles up Delaway from my house which there being taking caused the Inhabitants to Evacate their Places and Several to move below the mountains Towards Easton Bethelem and Nazareth.

I am Gentlemen with Due Respect,
Y^r most H^ble Ser^t,
JACOB STROUD.

To His Excelency Joseph Reed President of the Supreme Executive Counsel.

Col. Samuel Hunter to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sunbury 17th April 1780.

Sir,

I have Received your favour of the seventh Instant*, with the Commissioners and other Papers by Mr. Grant, and previous to the instructions from Council a number of the Principle inhabitants had met, and concluded uppon Raising partys of Volunteers to go in Quest of Indians offering them a reward of twelve Hundred Dollars for a Male Prisoner Either White or Indian acting together, and one Thousand Dollars for every Indian Scalp several partys were forming to go out and is at this time agreeable to your instructions, we assuring them of Rations and amunition the time they are out, as all the inhabitants above this was on the Eve of breaking up, I give Orders to embody themselves for a little time especially such as would enrole their names to turn out upon duty and I would engage them pay and Rations.

Its true the Militia is Very Expencive and not equally to what should be Expected from their numbers in giving checks to the incursion of the cruel Subtile Enemy we have to deal with, for had we all his Excellency General Washingtons army stationed on the frontiers of this state they would not be sufficient to Guard against the Savages making inrodes on our Country, as long as the English is in Possession of Niagara,—we have at this time all the Militia we can Muster uppon Duty, and constantly partys out, Yet all this will not deter those Barbarians from Committing Murders, the 8th instant about nine o'clock at night there was three Indians came in to a poor Widdow womans House (her Husband being killed last summer by them) and took her prisoner, after killing and scalping her two childern that was asleep in bed, but fortunately the Woman made her

* See page 166.

Escape from them before day light and got safe in, this last affair has Occasioned the Scatered inhabitants to collect in partys and keep out centrys as its a Singular instance of Indians coming in the clouds of the night,—last Saturday a party of twenty Indians struck at Peter Swarts's Plantation about twelve miles from here on the West Branch they killed one man and Wounded three which are now in this Town under Doctor Alisons care, at that Very time there was three diferent partys of the Inhabitants out on Scouts and some of the Militia Stationed about two miles above where the Indians struck a party formed as Quick as Possible and persued the Enemy, three or four that was on Horseback Riding smartly up came in sight of the Enemy which Occasioned them to drop their packs and turn up the mountain our party pursued them all day but could not come up with them.

I was on the Frontiers last Indian War when several partys turned out time after time in persuite of the Savages, Yet all to a very little purpose nor any thing done last war never put a stop to them makeing Excursions until such times as Regular Expeditions Marched into their Country, and even after the French had Concluded a peace it took a prity strong Army under the Command of Generals Bradstreet & Boquet to subdue the Savages.—As the German Regiment is but few in number, and not Considered by the Inhabitants to give the imediate Protection Expected from them in the manner they are Stationed, as no one place can turn out any party to Reconoiter being in four Diferent Places on this side Muncy Hill, and if we do not get more men up so as to Rebuild Fort Muncy and put a prity strong Garrison there so as a party can turn out uppon any sudent alarm thats given, otherwise I am afraid our County will not be able to stand it long—its not in my Power to make the Proper arangement of the Militia as the Law Requires, in the confused state the County is in at present, but will have it done as soon as Possible in the mean time I have assured those on Duty Pay Equal to what the best Law allows.

This is accompanyed with a petition from a number of the Inhabitants of the County, Seting forth the Real facts as they are stated concerning our Present Situation.

I am Sir Your Excellys most Obed^t
and Very Hum^ble Servt.
SAM^l. HUNTER, L. N. C.

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr. President of Council.

PRES. REED TO DELEGATES OF THE STATE IN CONGRESS, 1780.

The Hnble. Delegates of the State of Pennsylvania in Congress.

Philada., April 17, 1780.

Gentlemen,

His Excellency the President directs me to transmit to you a copy of the deposition* of Mr. John Ormsby, concerning the intrusions of the Virginians on the lands of Pennsylvania, &c., for your private information, and the same is enclosed herewith accordingly.

I am with great respect,

Your most obedt. Servt.,

T. M., Secy.

PRES. REED TO GOV. CASWELL, 1780.

Council Chamber, April 18, 1780.

Sir,

I have the Honour of acknowledging your Favour of the 24th March respecting Jacob James, lately captured & now a Prisoner in your State. He was a distinguished Partizan here in the Winter 1777, & particularly active in kidnapping the Persons in the Vicinity of the City who were remarkable for their Attachment to the Cause of their Country. He was also extremely troublesome to the Country by stealing & employing his Associates in stealing Horses for the British Army. I cannot learn whether he ever took the Oath of Allegiance to the State, but as he owed Allegiance to it he is as guilty by our Law as if he had taken such Oath. I am therefore to request your Excellᵧ that he may not be exchanged as a common Prisoner of War, but retained in close Custody untill a favourable Oppᵧ shall present to bring him into this State for Tryal, where it is to be presumed he will suffer the Punishment his many Villainies & offences so justly deserve.

I am now in Behalf of the State to thank your Excellᵧ for this Mark of Attention, & beg you to believe that I am

with great Consideration & Respect,

Your most Obed. &

very Hbble. Ser.,

J. R.

Directed,

To his Excell'y Richard Caswell, Esq., Governor of North Carolina.

* Not found.

PRES. REED TO CHRISTIAN WIRTZ, 1780.

Council Chamber, April 18, 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 15th* Instt has been duly received & communicated to the Council. We are sorry to learn that the Disposition of the People of your County is so unfavourable to the Supply of the Army, which your Commission has solely in View. We cannot help ascribing it to Disaffection, as no reasonable Man can doubt a Security so safe & beneficial as the Money which is to be emitted. The Lands to be sold for its Redemption exceed in Value the Sum emitted at least Ten fold, & the Interest will make it preferable to Gold or Silver. The members of Assembly had more just & proper Notions of it when they directed an Agent in each County, that every County might have its Share of the Sum emitted.

We are happy to find that from present Appearances in this Quarter & New Jersey the Disappointment will not be material. The Quantity of Flour from Lancaster County was small in Comparison of what the Country can afford, but as we are not under a Necessity of using any compulsory Means or gratifying unreasonable Demands, our Direction is that you forbear making any farther Applications, as we have no Doubt we shall be able from this City & its Neighbourhood to make up the Quantity deficient. If you can purchase Hay & Forage at the limited Prices for the present Use of the Posts it will be proper, but we cannot think of passing away this Money on other Terms.

We are somewhat apprehensive that the Appointment of a Number of Assistants may have given the People an Idea of great Purchases which leads to Extortion & Carelessness on the Part of the Seller, supposing that he may make his Market of the publick Necessity. —We would advise you to make few Appointments, & by no Means discover an Anxiety of which bad Men will make their Advantage. If the old Department has Hay & Forage outstanding & uncollected you must insist upon their collecting it, & not seek to embarass the new Appointments, as I am sorry to say there is some Reason to suspect.—If they act otherwise you will inform us that suitable Measures may be taken.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble. Ser.,

J. REED, President.

Indorsed,

To C. Wirtz, commr of purchases at Lancaster.

* See page 187.

PRES. REED TO GENL. WASHINGTON, 1780.

Council Chamber, Philada., April 18, 1780.

Sir,

I have the Honour of three of your Excellcy's Favours respecting the Supplies furnished by this State agreeable to the Resolve of Congress of the 25th Feby. The Number & Distance at which these Magazines are to be formed will I fear be found very diffcult if not impracticable, as the Transportation (for which no Provision is made by the Resolves of Congress) will in many Cases prove more expensive & difficult than the Cost & Difficulty of procuring the Articles themselves. We submit to your Excellency's Consideration whether this Circumstance is not deserving of Attention. It is a Burthen which ought not to be partially laid & if not rectified will fall extremely heavy on this State which has its Deposits at such a Distance & must depend on the inner Counties to have them filled. After viewing the Matter in every possible Light & with the most anxious Desires to exert ourselves & raise as few Difficulties as possible, we are obliged to acknowledge that we see no Prospect of effecting the Transportation at such Distance by the Exertions of the State singly.

The inclosed Representation has been transmitted to us from the Army, as we find upon Inquiry it had not been communicated to your Excelly we thought it incumbent on us to forward it to you as soon as possible & that before any Means had been taken upon it either in the State or Congress. Its Contents are really important, & may lead to Consequences the most interesting, we must therefore intrude so far on your Time as to request your Opinion & Advice both in Matter & Manner by which we shall be very much directed in our farther Proceeding therein. As we conceive voluntary Inlistment now nearly over we confess the Incorporation of the Regiments would be very agreeable to us as it would prove a great saving of publick Expence, a very necessary Consideration at all Times & at this in particular, but we do not seek local Gratifications if incompatible with the general Good of the Service.

It has been very much the Wish of the Legislature of this State that 3 or 4 loose Artilly Companies belonging to the State but doing Duty with Col. Lamb's Regiment should be incorporated with Col. Proctor's Regiment. Gen. Knox, when I was at Camp, approved of it highly on Condition some Vacancies in Proctors Regiment could be previously filled up—to this the Officers in those Companies consented but by some Means the Incorporation is not effected. It would be trespassing on your Excellcy's Time to send you the Resolves but there have been two express Recommendations on this Subject from the House of Assembly to their Delegates in Congress. The

latter referr'd it to the Board of War & they informed us they waited your Excell^y^ Opinion upon it, this is now some months past.

I am with very great Respect & Regard

your Excell^ys^ most obed. & very

Hble Serv.

Directed,

His Excell'y Gen. Washington, Head Quarters.

Pres. Reed, to Cha's Hall, 1780.

April 18, 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 20th Ult. has been received & laid before the Council. We request you would form a State of your Accounts & transmit the same, observing at the same Time that the Council consider that all Lands which have not been paid for agreeable to the Conditions of Sale are deemed the Property of the Commonwealth. It being their Determined Resolution to make no Title upon such Sale unless in case of punctual Payment or the Depreciation made up. The Agents by receiving the Money afterwards were guilty of a great Mistake & assumed a Power of controlling the Directions of the Board which they ought not to have done. We have this Day refused to receive a Sum of Money from the Agent of Northampton County or to execute the Deeds & think ourselves bound to do the same with others. As to Dr. Harris's Claim it appears a very frivolous one & is probably by this Time barr'd by the Act which directs its being offered to the Judges of the Supreme Court within 6 months after the Estate of the Traytor is advertised for Sale. However as the Judges will soon sit in Lancaster County you will do well to consult them upon it, & if Harris does not support it take no farther Notice of it.

Your destroying the Receipts & not making Entries of the Times of Payment were both unfortunate & irregular, we would have you endeavour to ascertain the Times of Payment as we shall only have the Trouble of refusing the Deeds if the Matter is not put on such a Footing as that Justice may be done the State.—Mr. Crawfords Deed certainly will not be executed & we are the more surprized you should receive from him in January as in December we expressly and publickly forbid the Agents to receive any more Money upon the broken Conditions. This, therefore, must be settled between yourselves, as we cannot ratify a Purchase when the Conditions were

not only broken in the first Instance, but our farther Directions disregarded.

Mr. Musser promised to give this Board satisfactory Information with respect to the Indian Lands which he has not done tho he has been since in Town, it is therefore the Sense of the Council that they should be in the Possession of the State untill he complys with his Promise or gets his Right ascertained in due Course of Law. You are therefore directed to take suitable Measures for this Purpose and as the Laws with Respect to dealing in Gold & Silver are not now in Force you may assess for a Rent in Specie with the several Tenants, & if they refuse to conform send down the earliest Notice, as a late Act of Assembly fully authorizes Council to take Possession of Lands thus circumstanced. Judge Atlee, to whom you can communicate this Part of the Letter will give you his Advice & Direction.

I am Sir,

your very Hbbl Serv.

Directed,

To Charles Hall, Esq., Agent for confiscated Estates, Lancaster.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, April 18, 1780.

Resolved,

That a copy of Colº Broadhead's letter of the 27th Feb'y and the papers referred to in it be sent to the governor and Council of Virginia and to the supreme executive council of Pensylvania.

Resolved, That Colº Broadhead shall be supported by Congress in any acts or orders which the nature of the service, and the discharging of his duty as commanding officer at fort Pitt hath made or shall make necessary.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Thos. Jefferson Gov. of Va, to Pres. Reed, 1780.

In Council, April 18, 1780.

Sir,

I have had the pleasure to receive your Excellency's favor of March 27* and am to return you our sincere thanks for your interposition in favor of the operations carrying on by General Clark, operations which I hope will result equally to the benefit of yours as of our State, and which if successful will give us future quiet in our western quarter. I beg you to be assured that Colo. Broadhead has been altogether misinformed as to any restriction having been laid on a Mr Wilson or any other person in purchasing within this State cattle for the use of Fort pitt, or that if such a restriction actually took place, it was a private act in those who presumed to impose it, unauthorized by government & which would have been censured and rectified had it been made known. We are so sensible of the evils which would result from such a line of conduct, and so sincerely disposed to render the union of the States more perfect that we shall on all occasions endeavor to render to our neighbors every friendly office which circumstances shall bring within the compass of our powers.

I am further to thank your Excellency for the kind dispositions you entertain & the aids you were pleased to render to the expedition under the Marquis of Fayette which was intended for the immediate relief of this State in particular, as well as for those furnished to General Greene for the southern service in general. Such is the present aspect of the war, that it does not seem very probable its circumstances should be so reversed as to place us in a situation of returning the favor in kind however we trust that while the contest was northwards our contributions of men, arms & other necessaries were such as to prove we should not be wanting to our friends under a change of circumstances with respect to your State particularly we shall take very great pleasure in cultivating every disposition to harmony & mutual aid; that policy would be very unsound which should build our interest or happiness on any thing inconsistent with yours.

I have the honour to be
with very great respect
your Excellency's
mo ob Serv't

TH^s. JEFFERSON.

* Not found.

Charles Pettit to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philad^a, 20 April, 1780.

Sir,

I have the honor to inclose to you herein the Draught of the President of Congress on the President & Council of this State, on which I request your Excellencys order for payment.

This order being for Two hundred ninety eight thousand six hundred & four Dollars $\frac{6}{8}$^ths is granted principally for the immediate purpose of equipping & forwarding the Division of Troops now on their march to the southward, the preparations for which are already behind the occasion. A considerable part of the sum will be appropriated to collecting of the publick Horses dispersed in various parts of the State, whose keeping for some months past must be paid for before we can draw the Horses from the Farmers who have them in possession. Other purposes equally urgent call for the Residue.

I have the honor to be sir,

your most obedient serv't

CHAS PETTIT,

A. Q. M. Genl.*

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Col. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Head Quarters, Pittsburgh, April 20th, 1780

Sir,

I am honoured with your Letter Dated in Council the 14th of Feb'y last,† and as it expresses a want of attention to my Duty, and is doubtless, of Record in the Books of the supreme Executive Council of the State, whereof (altho' at present a soldier) I glory in being a Citizen. I feel the rebuke, gentle and discreet as may seem very sensibly. It is however a small consolation, that the Honorable Supreme Executive Council was not, perhaps, at the time of writing this Letter fully acquainted with circumstances on this side the mountain, nor with my Instructions from his Excellency the Commander in chief. And therefore I take the liberty here, of

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 326, 328. † Page 109 of this Vol.

mentioning, that it was by his instructions that I enlisted as many men from the different Corps, whose Terms were nearly expired, as could be prevailed on to serve during the war, and those of the Ranging Companies enlisted into my Regiment, being destitute of Clothing, I immediately ordered them to be clothed by my Regimental Clothier, and after having done this I felt an unwillingness to have the Men marched to places where considering the inclement Season of the year, there was but little prospect of their answering any salutary purpose, or even a probability of having them subsisted. And the more so, as their movement appeared to be calculated only, to favor the humour of a couple of unmilitary men at the Heads of the Ranging Companies, or to prevent me from engaging them during the war into one of the Regiments of the State, stationed upon its frontier.

As to my refusing Provisions I conceive, my letter to Col° Lochry might have convinced the Supreme Executive Council that I did not refuse them to those Companies, but as I had received no Instructions concerning them, and your Letter assured me they were not under my Command untill some offensive operations should take place, it appeared to me that I had nothing more to do with their subsistence than with the other Companies raised at the same time for the Defence of the Frontier & stationed below the mountain and therefore I thought it unnecessary for me to give any orders respecting them, but left the matter between Col° Lochry & the Deputy Commissary of issues.

I have a great personal regard for Col° Lochry and by his late Letters I am convinced that the harmony subsisting between us is uninterrupted, but I conceive that on account of his connection with Capt^ns Erwin & Campbell he has been led to do things contrary to his own Judgment.

The Inhabitants of Westmoreland in general I flatter myself, are ready at any time to acknowledge my particular attention & protection. And I appeal to the wisdom of the Supreme Executive Council whether, considering the inclemency of the Season the scantiness of our Provisions, and the necessity of preventing every unnecessary expence to the public, the Ranging Companies ought not to have been discharged agreeable to my recommendation to Col° Lochry, and whether Captains Erwin & Campbell ought not to have been tried by a Genl Court martial of the line for their insolence & disobedience of orders.

In your letter of the 30th of october,* received the 30th November, you say the "ranging Companies were raised by Congress at the express desire of the Assembly of the State for the Defence of the frontiers, the whole to be executed by the Supreme Executive Council. In these Circumstances and not being personally acquainted with those Stations where they might be most usefull, you

* See Vol. VII. p. 771.

put them under the Direction of the Lieut^ts of Counties where it was supposed they would be necessary." For these reasons as I said before and not having received any instructions concerning them I took it for granted that the Lieut^ts of Counties had full and ample instructions & authority to draw provisions for the Troops they had the exclusive command of. I did not understand from the words of your letter which I have taken the liberty to recite, that the Hon'ble Supreme Executive Council were authorized either to discharge or reinlist the ranging Companies.

I declare upon my Honor that I do entertain sentiments of the highest respect towards the Supreme Executive Council, and I sincerely wish to recommend myself to the notice & regard of the Legislature of Pens^a in general. I could therefore wish that when other Troops are to be sent to this district under its particular Command the Hon'ble Executive Council would be pleased to communicate to me or any succeeding commandg officer the Terms upon which they are raised & from what magazines they are to draw their provisions & Stores.

I have the Honor to be

with the most sincere regard & esteem

Dear sir your most obed^t & Humble Serv't

DANIEL BRODHEAD,

Col^o commandg W. D.

Directed,

His Excell^y Joseph Reed Esqr.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Circular.

Philadelphia, April 20, 1780.

Sir,

By the act of Congress of the 15th Instant herewith enclosed you will be informed that any State shall have Credit in their Account with the United States for such Clothing as they may furnish to the Officers of the Hospital and medical Staff agreeable to the act.

I have the honor to be

with great respect

your Excelly's hble servant,

SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

Directed,

His Excell'y The President of Pennsylvania.

Joseph Shippen, Jr. to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

I this moment received by the Post your Letter, without Date, inclosing a Copy of an Order of Council of the 25th of last month directing me to deliver to you, on or before this day, the Records Books and Papers belonging to the Office of Secretary of the late Government of Pennsylvania. I should have obeyed the Directions of that Order before this time, if I had received the Copy you refer to in your Letter; but it has never yet come to hand. I can therefore only now inform you, in Obedience to the Requisition of the Council, that, some time in the month of August 1776, just before I removed into this County, I delivered up all the Records Books and papers belonging to the Office of Secretary of the late Government to The Honble John Penn Esquire; in whose Custody I have no doubt they still remain, and I request you will communicate this to the Council as the Reason why it is not in my Power fully to comply with their Order abovementioned.

I am Sir,

your most obedient Servant,

JOSEPH SHIPPEN Jr.*

Kennet Square, Chester County, 20th April 1780 3 o'clock P. M.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack Esquire, Secretary of The Council of Pennsylvania.

Gustavus Risberg to Council, 1780.

Philad^a, April 21, 1780.

Gentlemen,

By a letter received this day from the Issuing Commissary at Lancaster I am informed that Flour is much wanted for the use of that Post, and that application has been made to Mr Wirtz the County Commissioner for the Same, who returned for answer that none could be delivered without an order from your Honourable Board.

Your Excellency and the Honorable the Council will therefore be pleased to direct Mr Wirtz to deliver the Issuing Commissary such articles he may occasionally want for the accomodation of the

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 327.

Prisoners stationed there, and the marching Parties which daily passes to join the Main army.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most Obed^t Servant,

GUSTAVUS RISBERG,

D. C. G. of Issues M Dept.

Directed,

His Excellency the President, and the Honourable the Council, for the State of Pennsylvania.

Present.

Pres. Reed to Nicholas Lutz, 1780.

Sir,

Your acceptance of the Appointment of Commissioner of Purchases is very agreeable to us as well as your Intelligence, that you do not apprehend any Difficulty in executing it. The Money is issued on such good Security, redeemable in 10 Years that no Person can Doubt its goodness, & bearing an interest of 5℘ c^t; it is certainly more beneficial to the Holder than even Gold or Silver. It is probable Indian Corn may be set too high in your County, but as Oats may be substituted in Lieu we have not thought it best to make any Alteration, You will therefore proceed with as much Expedition as may be consistent with Prudence by no Means appointing a great number of Assistants, or expressing too great Anxiety to purchase, & least of all would have you use any compulsive Measures or press your Applications in any other than the usual Mode of buying & selling.

We expect the Laws, from the Press every day, one of which will be forwarded you immediately, & as soon as the Money comes out which we expect will be, in two or 3 Weeks at farthest you will be furnished with what is needful.

I am sir,

Your Obed. Hble, Servt,

J. R.

Nicholas Lutz Esq., Comms. of Purchases Berks County.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, April 23, 1780.

Sir,

I am directed to lay before your* Excellency and Council an Act of Congress of the 18th Instant, together with Copies of sundry Papers from Colo. Brodhead, No. 1 & 2, to which the Act refers, by which you will be informed that a Suit is instituted against Colo. Brodhead in Virginia in Consequence of Orders given by him as Commanding Officer at Fort Pitt.

You will also observe the Resolution Congress have adopted to support Colo. Brodhead in any Acts or orders which the Nature of the Service and discharging his Duty as Commanding Officer at Fort Pitt hath made, or shall make *necessary*, with which Sentiment I doubt not the Legislative and Executive Powers of this Commonwealth will fully concur, and so far as appertains to them support him in every Act that is *necessary for a faithful Discharge of his Duty* as Commanding Officer at Fort Pitt.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

Your Excelley's obed't h'ble servant,

SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.†

His Excell'y, President Reed.

John Van Campen to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lower Smithfield, April the 24th, 1780.

Hon'd Sir,

I hope my last by Mr. Mixer is Come to hand informing you of the Incursion of the Indians at the house of Manuel Gunsaleyes. I herewith inform your honour of their later attempts. James McCarte with his family was Removed to the Jersey, on the 20th Instant his Sons went to their home to feed the Cattle, Discovered sings of Indians, Returned to the Jersey Immediately & acquainted Major Westbrook and Captain Westbrook the sings they had Discovered, they Sent Immediately for some of their best men & Croos'd the River that night, about sun rise the morning following Discovered the Indians Nigh the Barnn and began the attack; the number of the Enemy is supposed to be about fourteen; the Major Received no Damage with his party; the Indians retreated to the woods; the major was Reinforced by Capt. Vannatten, with three of his sons &

* See page 195.

† See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 381.

son in Law, Pursued the Indians by the Blood, & about two miles Came up with them. As it is without Doubt three of them was wounded, Renewed the attack, Drove the Indians in a few minutes, they Ran to the edge of a thick wood; Captain Vannatten maintained his Ground with his few men, the Major with his men also, Captain Westbrook's men left him at the first fire from the Enemy in the woods, which was the ruin of the whole; but the ground maintained for some time & the retreat secured by the Major & Vannatten; Kill'd & missing on the part of the Major & Vannatten Captain Westbrook missing, not yet found, Benjamin Ennis kill'd, son in law to Capt. Vannatten, Richard Rosekrans kill'd and two more wounded. Of the Enemy Kill'd, two found, one an officer, appearing by his Dress, found in his pocket a Regular Journal from the first of March until the 16th Inst., as appears by his Journal there is three hundred & Ninety marched from Niagagari, divided into Different parties, the Officer was a White man.

Respective Sir,

I'me now under Difficulties of mind, what the Event will be God only knows, the people are Determined to Evacuate the Country, as there appears no prespect of Relief by the millitia.

I am Sir, with Due Respect,

Your Most Huble servt.,

JOHN VANCAMPEN.

P. S. The said McCartee, where the attack began, is about two miles Below Wells' ferry, on the Banks of Delaware.

Capt. Vannatten lives in Delaware Township, one mile Below McCartee's.

Directed.

To his Excellency, Joseph Reed, President of the Executive Council, Philadelphia.

Circular of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, April 24th, 1780.

It is the duty of Congress to be as full and explicit in their requisitions, as the public exigencies are great and pressing, and they are confident that the Citizens of these States are not more desirous to be informed of their affairs than they are ready and willing to afford the most vigorous assistance. It is unnecessary to mention our embarrassments, they are known to you, to the means of relieving them we wish your attention.

The whole of the monies due on the quotas of taxes to the first of March last, are become of immediate & indispensible necessity. Numerous debts have accumulated on the public departments, and justice requires they should be forthwith discharged. Large sums are also requisite for the purposes of transportation, and to continue the purchases of supplies for the army until the States are prepared to furnish them. On these quotas draughts are now making and must continue to be made to the whole amount, nor can a doubt be admitted of their being punctually answered. If any State should be unprepared; if the collections are incomplete, not a moment is to be lost. Delay will be disappointment, and may involve consequences too interesting, too fatal to be hazarded. Should the public operations through languor and inattention be retarded and stopped, should those exertions which have hitherto rendered this contest conspicuous to the world, be intermitted, the fairest prospects and the most promising occasion may be irretrievably lost. Urge, therefore, the instant execution of every measure which has been adopted, and the speedy adoption of such as yet remain to be taken.

The specifick supplies required by the resolutions of the 25th of February last, will forthwith become matter of equal urgency and importance. These must be relied on in future as the principal, not to say the only resource from which the army is to be supported. From the obvious propriety of adopting the mode there described as best suited to the ease and convenience of the respective States; as making a just apportionment of the burthens of the war; and as necessary for correcting abuses in the expenditure of public money; Congress have the fullest confidence that the measure will be approved and successful, and by seasonably and amply providing for the army enable them to act and co-operate as circumstances may require, with vigour and decision through the ensuing campaign.

The resources of our country, even after a five years obstinate and wasting war, are still abundant, and in articles the most essential, scarcely impaired. The spirit of the people is free to produce them, all that is wanting is an established medium of negotiation, to be applied in effecting it. Such we are firmly persuaded will be secured by a proper attention to the resolutions of the 18th March last, from which, as the object is not confined to the purchase of public supplies only, but extends to the various transactions of the community, the most extensive benefits may be justly expected.

The crisis calls for exertion; much is to be done in a little time; and every motive that can stimulate the mind of man presents itself to view. No period has occurred in this long and glorious struggle in which indecision could be so destructive; and, on the other hand, no conjuncture has been more favorable to great and deciding efforts.

We detain you no longer than to mention the necessity of early and frequent communications on the subjects of this address; and to

remind you how much they contribute, on all occasions, to the success of arrangements for the public safety.

By order of Congress.

SAML. HUNTINGTON, President.

For His Excellency, the President in Council & the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Com. Genl. Wadsworth to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Hartford, April 24th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I take the Liberty to request you will favour me with a Copy of the letter from a Committee of Congress to you on the subject of Shipping flour, in which they inform Your Excellency that they have an "excess of flour which is spoiling in their Magazines"; I am not sure these are their very words, but the sense is, I believe, the same. I shou'd not take this liberty, but as you expressed a willingness to oblidge me, when I conversed with you on the subject, you will excuse me.

I am. very respectfully,

Your Excellency's

most obedient St.,

JERE. WADSWORTH.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the State of Pensilvania.

Pres. Reed to Col. Samuel Hunter, 1780.

In Council,

Philada, April 24th, 1780.

Sir,

I am now to acknowledge your Favour of the 17th* by Mr Chambers. We sincerely deplore the unhappy State of the County, & have spent a considerable Time in devising Means of Relief. In the present reduced State of the Continental Army, we are persuaded we should only distress the General by the Request of Troops, as there is no Probability that it would be granted. To send a Body of Militia seems generally agreed to be inadequate, & in some Respects distressing to those in whose Behalf they are sent. Added to this, you are acquainted in a former Letter with the State of our Treasury, which

* See page 189.

is not altered for the better; tho' we hope in a short Time the Collection of the Taxes will relieve us from the present Difficulty; and you may depend upon it we shall keep our Attention fixed on your Affairs, & forward a Supply with all Dispatch.

We have, upon farther Consideration, thought proper to increase the Reward for voluntary & private Excursions; & as we hope the Supply of Ammunition has arrived before this Time, must depend upon your Prudence to deliver it out with Care & Frugality.

Col. Weltner's Orders are to consult with you, & take your Advice & Assistance in stationing his Troops—you must spirit them to turn out, & not lay in their Posts, when their Exertions might be honourable to themselves & useful to you.

As to Col. Antis procuring Beef, that Article not being in the Demand of Congress, the former Commiss^s should certainly proceed as if no other Apportionments had been made.

I am, Sir,

Your Obed. Hble. Servt.,

J. REED.

Gen. Wm. Irvine to Pres. Reed, 1780

Camp, near Morristown, April 25, 1780.

Dear Sir,

The Act of Congress respecting the suspension of the appointment of Officers, is not clearly understood in the Army—however, most are of opinion, that the Intention cannot be to put a stop to the filling up Vacancies, with the Officers already in the Line; was it understood otherwise it would create vast uneasiness; indeed, every officer expects, not only regular but instant promotion. I am certain it will not be possible to avoid it—Tho' I believe all agree that entire new appointments may be dispensed with in the present state of the Troops.

Lt Colonel Williams's Resignation, & Major Bylis's death leave one Lt Col. & two Majoritys Vacant. Alexander & Tudor are the oldest Captains in the Line; but as there is a dispute between these two Gentlemen, I think it would be best that no Commission should Issue for either, untill it is settled—(which, I believe, willl be done in a few days, by a Board of Officers) as soon as it is I shall acquaint your Excellency.

The Troops of every State has, I believe been very urgent that each should do the same for them that ours has—but I can not learn any other uneasiness that our supplys has occasioned; so far from it, we are (or I should rather say) our Assembly & Council are held up as a pattern to all the others. We had four Battalions Reviewed to day, by the French Minister; he expressed equal pleasure &

surprise at their appearance & manœuvring & firing. He is to pass the line of Encampment tomorrow on his return to Philad^a; every body is busy & each Line wish to excell Ours dont want Vanity to think they will be foremost.

I am, Dr Sir,
with real esteem,
Your Excellency's
most Obedient Servt,
W^m. IRVINE.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

William Henry to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lancaster, April 25th, 1780.

Sir,

The Question you are pleased to put to me in your Favour of the 18th Inst. is not a little imbarrassing, for in the Course of my Answer I shall not only be obliged to accuse my Imployers but myself also. The Board have been rather remiss, but they have their Excuses. Their Pay will not support their Horses while in Town, much less themselves and pay for their Services. I have often observed, when they come to Town, they hurry home before the Business is done, which I thought ought to have been done. I have often taken the Liberty to tell them so, and received for Answer, their Pay would not support them. I do not say their Reasons were good, but it is a Certainty, they are such as influence the Minds of most Men. I could wish the Assembly could be convinced, "that it is private Interest that executes Government," as well with Regard to the Board as the Treasurers. My Pay will scarce clear the expenses twice to Philadelphia. There are a Number of Difficulties to be encountered in this County which none of the others have to strive with. There are several of the Townships, which have not more than two or three Persons which have taken the oath of Allegiance, and therefore not capable in Law to act as Assessors or Appraisers. This gives the Board much Trouble and takes much time, before People can be found, who will act and those are generally of the lowest Character. Some Collectors have imploy'd others at their own Risque and will suffer by it. I am indebted at this Time to the State between Sixty & Seventy Thousand Pound, which I have laid out in purchase of Leather and Paying Workmens Wages at the Shoe-Factory at Philadelphia, Allentown and Lancaster. Pressed by the Board of War and the Clothier General, as I am to make the utmost Exertions to furnish the Army with Shoes and Boots by the opening of the Campain. I hope, Sir, you will excuse the Liberty I have taken, as it was done only with an Intent to further the Service.

The whole of the Factorys must have stop'd for want of Pay and Materials, if I had not supported them with Money. I do not even draw Commissions on the Money furnish'd the Factorys. I this Day write to the Clothier General, who will draw 200,000 Dollars from Congress, and replace what I have used. There is yet Fourteen Townships out of Thirty three to settle for the first Tax for 1779—as soon as they have settled, I will go to Philadel^a and settle with the State-Treasurer, which I expect will be about the 15th of May next or sooner, if I can settle here with the Board and Collectors.

I am Sir

Your obed^t & hum. Ser.

WILLIAM HENRY.

Directed.

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr.

Memorial John Dunlap & James Buddin, 1780.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire President, and the Honourable Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

The Memorial of John Dunlap and James Buddin on Behalf of themselves and of Jacob Morgan jun^r., Joseph Carson and John Challoner,

Respectfully sheweth.

That Your Memorialists in September last purchased at public Vendue, of the Agents for the Sale of forfeited Estates in Chester County that Part of Tinicum Island within said County, which was part of the Estate formerly of Joseph Galloway Esquire, forfeited and sold in due Course of Law.

That your Memorialists have complied with the Terms of Sale in every Respect, and obtained from His Excellency the President and the Honourable Council a Deed or Grant of Confirmation for the same Premises.

That nevertheless, Abraham Kintzing the former Tenant under the said Joseph Galloway refuses to yield to your Memorialist, the Possession of the said Premises, notwithstanding his having been thereunto divers Times required, but detains the same to the great Injury and Damage of your Memorialists, the present rightful Owners thereof.

Your Memorialists therefore respectfully pray, His Excellency the President and the Honorable Council may be pleased to cause Possession of the said Premises with the Appurtenances to be delivered

unto them in due Form of Law, which Your Memorialists shall gratefully acknowledge &c^a.

JOHN DUNLAP.
JAS. BUDDIN.*

Philadelphia, April 25th, 1780.

PRES. REED TO AGENTS OF SLOOP ACTIVE, 1780.

Gentlemen,

Sundry Petitions have been presented by Persons pretending or perhaps who really have purchased Prize Money of the Sloop Active belonging to Deserters from the Continental Army. It is the clear Sense of the Council that no such Purchasers can be admitted & they expect you will not pay any prize money belonging to such Deserters without the Permission of the Board.

I am Gent.

your obed. Hble Serv.
JOS. REED.

Indorsed,
April 26, 1780.

CAPT. DAVID ZIEGLER TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Honourable General,

I received yours of the 22^d Instant by the hand of Captain Mc Gowin, and find me self under the greatest Obligations to the Honble Counsil for the Honour they Pay^d me in finding me Capable of Acting in my former Capacity.

I am very sorry to hear that Mr. Lytle is found unacquainted with the Post he is in, and that he Acts Contrary to the Acts of Assembly.

By his Estimate send to the Honble Counsil he only made Calculation for the Absent Officers & men on furlough, &c, &c, but it is not Issued. I should be very happy if Mr. Lytle Could fulfil the post—as I would rather do my duty in the regiment, but as it is the desire of the Honble Counsil that I should resume the Office, I should be very happy if agreeable to the Honble Counsil that Mr. Lytle should Issue and other Cargo, and then if he does not get

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 331.

Acquainted with the Business I cannot refuse, as my Present Health wont Permit me of taking it at this Time.

Honourable General,

I have the Honour

to bo your most Humble

& very Obedient Servant,

DAVID ZIEGLER,

Captain 1st Pennª Rgt.

Camp 27th April, 1780.

Directed,

On Publick Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Col. Danl. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Pittsburgh, April 27th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I had the honor of receiving your favor of the 30th ultimo the 22nd instant, and find that the paragraph respecting the difference of sentiments between Colº Lochrey & me is answered in my Letter of the 20th instant.

I am glad to hear of the four Companies voted to be raised by the authority of the State for the Defence of the frontier, and as I flatter myself the Eastern parts of the State are at present freed from apprehensions of Danger, so I hope these Companies when raised will be ordered to this District, where the Enemy are remarkably hostile. Between forty & fifty men, women, & Children have been killed & taken from what are now called the Counties of Yoghagania, Monongalia, & Ohio since the first of March, but no damage has yet been done in the County of Westmoreland. It is to be lamented that our treasury is low, but as I always avoid an anticipation of Evil, so I hope for better accounts from thence.

I am much at a loss to guess the cause of prepossession in the Assembly to favor former appointments. They must conceive a mean opinion of my Judgment in regard to Officers if they know my opinion of these, and they must be sensible that many excellent Officers of the State are Supernumerary. I will only take the liberty to mention Captn. Stokely, Captn. Hoffnagle, Captn. Swearingen, & Captn. Jack, either of which are far superior to either Erwin or Campbell. But were I at liberty to recommend officers I should

prefer such who are altogether unconnected with the leading people of the Counties, and have neither Families nor Farms to support or cultivate at an expence they do not choose to pay. The late Captn. Morehead & others considered their men as their Servants, & employed them to labour upon their farms instead of the Service for which they were intended by the public.

It will give me great pleasure to hear from Congress with respect to the half Whigs of this place, Ward & Smallman, because I have rec^d another writ for £40,000 Damages for taking the Demised King's Orchard for Soldier's Gardens.

The world is indeed very censorious, but I cannot conceive what it has to do with our private property. I conceive we are armed for the very purpose of securing to ourselves & posterity a right of disposing of our own as we think proper.

I am under great obligations for the kind attention & regard you have shewn my son, likewise for the news papers & proclamations, and shall seek occasion to render you every agreeable Service in my power.

I take the liberty to inclose a copy of a Letter from the Delaware Council, & Extracts from the rev^d Missionaries Zeisburger & Hackenwelder's Letters.

I have requested a number of the Militia from these Counties to be drafted, and if I get them you will possibly hear something important from the Shawnese Towns in the Course of six weeks.

I have the Honor to be
with the most sincere respect
& esteem your Excellencies
most obed^t & H'ble Servt,
DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Directed,

His Excell'y Jos. Reed, Esqr.

Chas. Pettit to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, 27th April, 1780.

Sir,

I have this morning received the inclosed draught of Congress on your Excellency and the Council for two hundred thousand Dollars, which I take the liberty of thus presenting for acceptance & payment. This order amongst others, is given to me on the pressing call for an immediate supply of money to expedite the march of the Troops ordered to the southward, who are detained for want of divers

articles without which they cannot proceed, and which it is not in my power to command without money. I beg the early answer of the Council that I may know how far to rely on this order as a supply.

I have the honor to be with great respect
your Excellency's most obedt
humble servant,
CHA. PETTIT,
A. Q. M. Genl.

Directed,
To His Excellency, The President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Wm. McCalla, 1780.

Sir,

In Answer to your Letter of the 25 received this morning acquaint you that the like Instructions were forwarded to you as the other Commissioners to which you will carefully conform by no means intermixing your former Accounts with these or discovering an Anxiety to purchase of which your past Experience must convince you Advantage will be taken. Nor would we have you use compulsive Methods but in the Case of the last Necessity as we have the utmost Reason to believe the Money will be in Credit sufficient to answer all Purposes if therefore any Difficulty is made with you we can only transfer the Orders to the Commissioners of the other Counties.

But as the Assembly directed an Appointment in each County we cannot deviate from it while there is a Prospect of being supplied in the County in a reasonable Time & at reasonable Rates.

It is expected the Money will be ready the latter End of next Week when you will do well to attend or send down a careful Hand You have herewith sent you the Law which you must regard as the grand Rule of your Conduct in the Business.

I am Sir
Your obed. Hble Ser.
J. REED.

Indorsed,
1780, April 27th. To Wm McCalla Comr of Purchases for Bucks County.

Lt. Nicholas Kern to Lt. Sam'l Rea, 1780.

Northampton County, Tomension township.

Sir,

Excuse haste, we have this meiunet returned from a scout, where we found mr. Benjaman Gilberts house* And gice mill & saw mill totally consumed with phire, and likewise Benjaman Peirts house, and the people Carryed of prisoners fifteen in Number by the enemy, But as the were taken the 25th instant in the morning, We were not able to over take them, but we could have Followed there tracks to Sasquehannah; the 15th instant Benedick Sneider & son was also taken and carryed of by the Indians, which has spread a general fleight in three townships, Penn, tomension, & Cheusnut Hill. Now we earnestly Beg your relievf by calling out the melittia on our frontere as the people on this side of the mountain is all Fled except a few familyes, and the begin to move on your side of the bleu mountain. We have had some scouting partyes But as Vallenteers will not stay above two or three Dayes from home at once, it is of no use to the inhabitants as security. We find now the want of not haveing our new officers elected & we hardly know now who to apply to, but by report; but our case is deploreable At present, not knowing the moment that we shall be either killed or taken and all we have consumed with Phire, it is now out of my power to embody five men in all this township, but I think if there were proper Gards sent up soon the people would com back, much Depends on your activity in the matter, I am with Grate respect your very Humble Servant,

NICHOLAS KERN.

April 27th, 1780.

Directed,

To Samuel Ray, County Leivtanenant.

* A particular account of the capture and sufferings of Gilbert and family, was published in a pamphlet. See a portion of it in Reg. of Pennsa., Vol. III., p. 314.

Genl. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Head Quarters, Morris
Town, April 28th, 1780.

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your Excellency's Letter of the 18th Instant.* I am sorry to find the Council are apprehensive that difficulties will attend the collecting of the supplies required of the State, by the Resolution of Congress of the 25th of February; but I cannot see that it is in my power to prevent them in any degree. Your Excellency and the Council will perceive on recurring to the proceedings, that all I could do on the occasion, was to appoint such places of deposit in each State for the articles they were to furnish respectively, as I should judge convenient, or in other words accommodated to the Public service. This I have endeavoured to do in the best manner I was able from a full consideration of all circumstances, as well with respect to Pennsylvania as to every other State; and I am happy in the persuasion that your Excellency and the Council will believe it has been the case. It was owing I imagine to the pressing necessity of the case and the very unhappy state of our Public finance, that this mode of obtaining supplies was adopted; and it appears evidently to me, to be the spirit and the expectation of the system, founded I suppose in the same unhappy necessity which led to the requisition for specific supplies, that each State should transport the articles they are to furnish, to the places appointed within them as deposits.

With respect to the representation of the field officers of the Pennsylvania line, which your Excellency has been pleased to transmit me—it leads without doubt to consequences of an important and interesting nature. The objects in general to which it goes are of such magnitude and delicacy, that I cannot undertake, either to decide or hardly to give an opinion upon them. It is however certainly to be wished and the general interest requires it, that the Regiments which the Public think proper to keep up, should be more respectable than they are in many instances at present.—How this is to be effected is with the particular States to determine. But two modes occur to me—either to do it by voluntary enlistment or by drafting—most of the States from which I have heard, have in consequence of the late requisition of Congress adopted the former, and it is said the business is attended with some success; but should this not be the case, the States must if they mean to continue the War, have recourse to the other expedient. I am also persuaded that there is too much countenance given to Deserters—and if proper Laws could be devised & effectually executed against those that do it, that our force would be much more respectable than it is at

* See page 198.

present. There have been many instances where Deserters which have been apprehended by officers have been rescued by the People, and but very few where the officers have received their aid & support.—As to a reduction and incorporation of the Regiments, it must depend on Congress—and be the effect probably of some general system of arrangement. I have expected for some days past a Committee at Camp, whose powers possibly may extend to this point. If they do & the measure is thought eligible and adopted, it will I suppose of course comprehend a plan of provision for the officers who are reduced The wishes of the Legislature with respect to the Independent Companies of Artillery, will also be without doubt in such case, attended to & the incorporation made if it can be done.

With respect to the depreciation of the money—& making it up to the Officers & Soldiers—it were to be wished that it could be the result of some common general system—that all might stand upon an equal footing. But whether this will or can be the case, I cannot pretend to say. Most if not the whole of the new England States as I have understood, have acted upon the matter and provided for it in the instance of their Troops; but I do not know the principles on which they have conducted this business. This being the case with respect to them, those of the other States who have the same pretensions, will naturally expect relief from some quarter. It is certain the depreciation of the money has operated with singular severity against the Army, as their pay has not been encreased and gives them an equitable claim to a compensation; but it may be a matter of difficulty to say how the compensation should be made. If it is to be in money—the payment at a future day would be attended with less injury to the Public and more advantage to those receiving it, as our finances would then be in a better train and of course the money more valuable; whereas at this time it would require a very extraordinary emission and add to the Public embarrassments, while it afforded but little or no relief to the parties.

I have the honor to be
With great respect & esteem
your Excellency's
most obe't hum. Servant,
G° WASHINGTON.

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

Pres. Reed to Col. Sam'l. J. Atlee, 1780.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 18th Inst. has been duly received & communicated to the Council. In Consequence of your Recommendation Commissions have issued to Messrs. Carpenter, Barber, & Clark, which you will receive herewith. It is not the Expectation of Council that the new Officers will be responsible for the former Arrearages or farther than they themselves receive. But as the Non-Collection will be attended with many Inconveniencies & Heartburnings to those who have turn'd out with the Militia or paid their Fines, We doubt not you will see the Propriety of urging the former Officers to finish this Business or it will be probably a disagreeable Bar to your executing your Duty with Satisfaction to yourselves & the Publick. We have observed the greatest Difficulties have arisen in these Counties, particularly York & Northampton, when the Collectors from Motives of false Tenderness & Desire to please every one have given Indulgencies & shewn Partialities. The Consequence has been that the well affected & spirited have been discouraged, & when they have been called a second Time they have complained of the Advantages which the timid disaffected & lazy have gained by their Backwardness.

A firm & vigorous Line of Conduct adhering strictly to the Law has been found the most desirable Method of pleasing, & I am satisfied is attended with the least Trouble in the End.

Wishing you & the other Gentlemen Health & Success, I remain

Sir, your obed. Hbbl Serv.,

JOS. REED.

Directed,

Col. Samuel Atlee, Lieutenant of Lancaster County.

David Hall & Henry Fisher to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Gentlemen,

As we are informed there are a number of small armed Boats from New York now cruising in our Bay which have taken several small Vessels on their passage to & from Philadelphia, we thought it necessary to inform your honorable Board, in hopes that some plan will be fell upon to clear our Shores from these Refugees and render our trade free and unmolested.

We are of opinion that two of your State Barges with twelve or fifteen men in each will sufficiently answer every purpose, as those

plunders keep close in with the Shores and in the small creeks & Guts which afford them shelter, should you be of opinion with us that they will be necessary, hope you will send them down as soon possible, and we will give them every assistance in our power.

We are Gentlemen
your most obd^t
hum'l Serv^ts
DAVID HALL, Col^s,
HENRY FISHER.*

Lewistown, Apr 29th, 1780.

Directed.

(On publick Service.)
To the President of the Board of War, Philadelphia.

Pres. Reed to Col. John Proctor, 1780.

Sir,

It is with great Concern I am obliged to inform you that the State of the publick Treasury since you left us has been such as absolutely prevented our sending the Money necessary to raise the Companies & we therefore declined sending the Commissions. The Demands of Congress have been so various so pressing & great that we have seen ourselves reduced to a Necesity of private Loans for the common Purpose of Governm^t—A most unhappy Delinquency in the Collection of publick Taxes has prevailed which will be attended with very fatal Consequences if a speedy Remedy is not applied. Nothing has been wanting on our Part & we flatter ourselves with more Punctuality & Attention in the Counties for the future. It is a melancholy Truth that the Counties in greatest Safety as Lancaster, Cumberland & York are the most delinquent.

After much Consideration on the State of the Frontiers & Anxiety to relieve them we thought it best to issue a Proclamation encouraging the young Fellows to turn out in small parties as the Enemy do—we are convinced a few Parties of this Kind will give you more real Protection than many Garrisons & Forts.

Inclosed I send you some of the Proclamations which you will do well to distribute & particularly to send some to Col. Lochry, to whom you will also communicate this Letter as I have not Time by this Opp^y to write him.

I am Sir with Esteem
your most obed & very H'bble Servt

Directed,

To Col. John Proctor, Westmoreland County.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 332.

Pres. Reed to Col. Brodhead, 1780.

Philad., April 29, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I received your Favour of the 18 March* & am sorry to find the Delawares whose Professions have been so great & who have actually received so many Marks of Kindness should have acted so ungrateful & barbarous a Part It confirms the Melancholy observation long made that the Savages are not to be gained or preserved on any other Principle than Fear.

We wish it was in the Generals Power to send you the desired Reinforcement but we fear the reduced State of the Army under his Command in Consequence of the Detachment to Carolina will prevent his doing more than sending you the Detachment of Artill^y under Capt Craig which has gone from this 2 Weeks ago.

The Assembly in their last Session voted 4 Companies to be raised for the Frontiers but the deficient State of the Treasury has prevented our carrying it into Execution as the Demands of Congress upon us greatly exceed any Supplies we yet obtain by Taxes—You will therefore render a very important & acceptable service to us if you can cover Westmoreland in any considerable Degree. After many Consultations & much Deliberation we have concluded to offer a Reward for Scalps & hope it will serve as an Inducement to the young Fellows of the County & others to turn out against the Indians. I herewith send you several of them. We are sensible it may be attended with Inconveniences but it occurred to us as a Measure of Necessity & the only effectual Weapon agains the Savages we hope it is so guarded that many abuses will not happen.

I have the satisfaction to find that Congress have fully justified & will support you against the improper Proceedings of the Virginia Court & as far as Prudence & a due Regard to your Duty will admit I flatter myself the Right of this State against the Usurpation & Injustice of Virginia will be countenanced & supported.

I am

with much Esteem

Sir your most obed

& very H'bble Servt

JOS. REED.

Directed,

To Col. Brodhead Comand^r at Fort Pitt.

* See page 140.

Frfdk. Antes to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Northumberland May the 1st 1780.

Sir,

I Received my appointment as Commissioner of purchases for this County about Two weeks ago wich gave me grade Concern how to act Especially at this Critical Juncture of Time when the best part of our County is upon the moving order, and preparing for a flite. If no Releve very sune apears I do not doubt you have heretofore heard by way of petition the Calametys this County is in at this time by wich means you will Readly aprehend that it will be out of my power to do much at present, as the County hath heretofore been prety reely Scoured by the former purchasing Commissaries and Foridge Masters so that there is but litel left.

Several people that are going out of the County have offered thare grain thay have for their one family Use if they Could have other Grain for it below in Exchange (as thay could not spare it on any other Terms) which might perhaps answer a good purpose and save Expences of bringing it here for the use of the Troops, Liqur may be got here for that use, and there is none in the stores at present by which means the Troops must do without any.

I shall do every thing in my power to forward the Business, and should be glad to be supplied with som money and the Law for that purpose as sun as possible.

Sins Mr. McCelog heard of the new apointment he declined purchising any thing for the use of the Troops, by which means there is great Lamantations for vegetables and som fresh provitions Especially for the officers, and nobody appointed to provid the same, thay say it is to hard to live Intirely on Salt or Fried Beef and not as much as a fue potatoes [which may be had.]

I am Sir with grate Respect,

Your obedient and very humble Servant,

FDk ANTES.

Indorsed,

To Jos. Reed, President.

Return of the Pennsylvania Division of Foot under Major General Arthur St. Clair, 1780.

Return of the Pennsylvania Division of Foot, commanded by the Hon'ble, under Major Gen'l Arthur St. Clair, Camp near Morris Town, May 1st, 1780.

Brigades.	By whom Commanded.	Officers present fit for Duty. Field. Colonels.	Field. Lieut. Colonels.	Field. Majors.	Commis'd. Captains.	Commis'd. Capt. Lieutenants.	Commis'd. Lieutenants.	Commis'd. Ensigns.	Staff. Chaplains.	Staff. Adjutants.	Staff. Pay Masters.	Staff. Quarter Masters.	Staff. Surgeons.	Staff. Mates.	Non Commis'd. Serjeant Major.	Non Commis'd. Qr. Mr. Serjeant.	Non Commis'd. Drum Majors.	Non Commis'd. Fife Majors.	Non Commis'd. Serjeants.	Non Commis'd. Drums & Fifes.	Rank and File. Present fit for Duty.	Rank and File. Sick present.	Rank and File. Sick absent.	Rank and File. Extra Duty.	Rank and File. On Command.	Rank and File. On Furlough.	Rank and File. Total.	Wanting to comp ete. Serjeants.	Wanting to comp ete. Drums & Fifes.	Wanting to comp ete. Rank and File.	Monthly Alterations. Dead.	Dis-ch'd. For Inability.	Dis-ch'd. Times expired.	Deserted.	Transfer'd.	Promoted.	Reduced.	Taken Prisoners.	Joined Serjeants.	Joined Drums & Fifes.	Joined Rank & File.
First.	Brig. Genl. William Irvine.	1	3	2	11	1	11	6		4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	63	45	679	57	29	55	134	42	996	23	21	1020	2	1		47	1		2	8			13
Second.	Colonel Francis Johnston.	2	1	3	11	2	12	4	1	3	8	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	43	48	551	90	26	58	88	30	843	37	18	1173	6		4	25	5			17	3	3	15
	Total.	3	4	5	22	3	23	10	1	7	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	106	93	1230	147	55	113	222	72	1839	60	39	2198	8	1	4	72	6		2	25	3	3	28
Sick present.					3		1	1		1					1	1				11	4																					
Sick absent.			1		4		1	3												4	2																					
On Command.				1	5	3	5	2					1							29	4																					
On Furlough.		3	1	1	1	1	2	1			1			1						5	2																					
Prisoners of War.		1			5		5													1																						
In the Staff.			1		7	1	19	3																																	
In Arrest.																																									
Vacant.			1	1	1		8	52									1	1		60	39																					
Establishment.		7	8	8	48	8	64	72	2	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	216	144																					
	Fit for Action.	3	4	5	22	3	23	10	1	7	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	1	106	98	1218					12				1230											

Fit for Action.	Waggoners.	Want of Clothes.	Want of Arms.	Proof.
1218		12		1230

Yellow Springs,	*11	†2	Albany,	6	2
Pennsylvania,	7	4	Baskinridge,	2	1
Pluckemin,	13	3	Bristol,	1	1
Fishkill,	5	1	Maryland,	1	11
Reading,	2	2	Wilmington,	1	8
Sunbury,	1	8	Westfield,	1	1
Philadelphia,	1	1	Country,	1	3
Lancaster,	1	1	Wallskill.	1	2
* Sick absent.	41	22	† Extra Duty.	14	29

Jos. Harmer, Lt. Col. Comg. 6th P. R., Inspector Pennsylvania Division.

Brig. Genl. St. Clair.
General Irvine.
General Wayne.
Surgeon General.
Commissary General.
Colonel Cormon.
Captain Miller.
Artificers.
By General Orders.

Waggoners.
Commis'y 1st Brigade.
Waiter on a French Officer.
Ensign de Marceller.
Bakers.
Commissary Hides.
At Mr. Lott's.
43. Brought up.
2. Forage Master.

1. Philadelphia.
1. Auditor's Office.
1. Colonel Magaw.
1. Lt. Colonel North.
2. Colonel Butler.
1. Comm'y Kean.
2 Morris Town.
14. Pennsylvania.
Extra duty continued.

2 Driv'g Horses to Pen'a.
1. Orderly in the Hospital Philada.
1. Lieut. Parks.
2. Colonel Humpton.
1. Colonel Hubley.
1. Captain Scull.
1. Lieut. de Hart.
2. General Green.

3. Excellency's Guard.
1. Easton.
1. Colonel Abell.
1. Lt. Col. Williams.
1. Captain Dunn.
1. Lord Stirling.
1. Pottsgrove.
1. General Du Portail.
3. Surveying party.

5. On Fatigue, Pluckemin.
3. Colonel Johnston.
1. Doctor McKinzie.
1. Baskenridge.
2. Butchers.
4. Colliers.
1. State Agent.
2. After deserters.

N. B. Lt. Col. Williams resigned.—Major Ryles killed at Paramus.—Captain Ashmead, absent without leave.—Lieut. Drummond and Lieut. White of the 10th Regiment and Lieut. Knox, (Captain by Brevet) resigned.—Ensign Renison of the 7th Regiment resigned.—Mr. McCormack appointed Ensign to the 1st Regiment.—Chaplain Blackwell resigned, and three Serjeants discharged.—Ten Serjeants deserted, and two Serjeants reduced.—One Fifer transferred.—One Drummer deserted, and one Fifer promoted to Fife Major since last Monthly return.

Wm. Irvine B. Gen., Comm'g Penna. Division.

SAMUEL REA, TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Northampton County.

Gentlemen,

By this I beg leave to inform Council of the alarming and distressed situation of the frontiers of this County, since the account Transmitted from Messr Depui, Stroud & Vancampen.

By express sent from Lieut Col Kern* of the 4th Batalion who says that, this moment I returned from a Scout and that they found Benjamin Gilberts House, Grist mill & Saw Mills, totaley burnt by the Enemy, and likewise Benjamin Peerts house and the People 15 in number carried of Prisoners, taken on the 25th ult., in the morning and Benedict Snyder and son were Captured on the 15th of last Month By the Indians,—By the late Repeated Incursions greatly alarmed the inhabitants of the Townships of Tomensing, Penns and Chestnut Hill so that (by the above relation) was entirely evacuated the extent of the Frontiers intirely abandonded, so that at this Critical juncture the Inhabitants may be justly looked as in a most deplorable Situation And as the Militia of this County is not as yet properly arranged, Our present Officers do not seem to act with as much vigor as I would wish, nor the Privates as cheerfully to obey as might be expected. The Lieut Chambers & Burkhaller have they inform me, called upon the Militia Agreeable to the Orders of Council Sent Mr. Kaghlin but have been universally disobeyed.

Therefore must beg leave to Request of Council as speedy Relief as Possible from the adjacent Lower Countys. As the Commission You have been pleased to honor me with came but lately hands have not had Time to have the Militia properly arranged and will still require some farther Time before it can be regularly compleated: And from the prevailing Panick & Terror on the verge of the Frontiers, will not be almost impracticable if not impolitic to impose any duty that can be avoided upon those who are daily exposed to the Savage Fury of the Enemy.

I must further Request that a Suply of Fire Arms may be sent and an additional Suply of Amunition as soon as may be, as the Number already will not be adequate to the present necessity, and unless there be a Speedy Relief of Men from some of other Countys & Amunition the Frontier Inhabitants will repair back and in a little time it may be hard to know where the Frontiers of this County may be; please to excuse haste & incoherence.

I am Gent your most obedient,
and most Humble Servant,
SAMUEL REA.†

Mountbethel 1st May 1780.

* See page 218.
† Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 336.

P. S. Please to communicate your pleasure by the bearer Mr. Peter Middagh which will be my Government.

Directed,

On Publick Service.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq. President of the Exe^tive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

Indorsed,

From Samuel Rhea, Read in Council May 2nd 1780.

Pres. Reed to Samuel Rea, 1780.

Sir,

I received your Letter advising of the Irruption of the Savages & their several Movements. It is indeed a distressing Circumstance & the Inability or Inattention of the People to make a sufficient Defence render it more so. It is much to be wish'd that the leading People of the County had intended themselves to fill Capt. Shrawder's Company, then they would have had a permanent & constant force which would have been ready for Scouts & other Service. We would recommend this to be done without Delay & to facilitate it Council have altered the Terms of Inlistment from the War to three Years, which we hope will have a good Effect. We observe you have called the Militia which we approve provided they will seriously employ themselves in their proper Duty but we must express our Disapprobation of their rendezvousing in Large Bodies in Taverns & spending their time in Amusements. We most earnestly wish some Method could be fallen upon to prevent the great Waste of Ammunition. The Demands are constant for this Article & the Supplies have been great but how it is consumed we are at a loss to judge. Exclusive of the Expence which is great it is becoming very difficult to procure; our Commissary cannot get 1000lb of Lead in the City. Surely this should be a strong Motive to make every one cautious how he wastes it.

Considering your Distance from the Seat of Danger & the Necessity of some farther Relief we have sent up to Mr. Vancampen a member of our Board £1000 in State Money to be applied to raising Scouting Parties rewarding any who shall take scalps or Prisoners & otherwise used as the present Emergency shall require.

As soon as the Ammunition is procured it will be sent under the Care of Capt Shrawder who will deliver it to you & we hope you will examine into the Expenditure & Distribution as we rely much on your Care in this Particular.

We must recommend to you to a Strict Collection of the Fines & wish you to recommend a Paymaster of the Militia as Mr. Ralston has declined the office.

I am sir,

Your Friend & Hbbl Serv

J. R.

To Col. Rea Lieut. of the County of Northampton*.

Indorsed,—May 1. 1780.

Owen Biddle to Charles Pettit, 1780.

Philadelphia, 2d May, 1780.

Sir,

Yesterday I received a note from General Wayne, advising me that in consequence of the Forage Master of Chester County not supplying him with forage on his application, he was reduced to the necessity of purchasing some for his horses, and that he shall call upon me for the payment of his account.

There are several other officers who are in similar circumstances, who have likewise applied to me. You know it has been the practice to pay such accounts for forage, when it could not be had from the Issueing Forage Masters, and where the accounts were properly certified; but as the officers of the Staff are prohibited from purchasing, a doubt has arisen with me, whether it would not be a violation of the Law for any of the Staff to pay those accounts, as it would reduce the emoluments of the State purchasers, and might render us liable to be suspected of having an intention to elude the Law; from this view of the matter, I have declined payment of some accounts, but unless there is some person for the officers of the Line to have recourse to for payment, they will be much oppressed, by the expence of keeping their own horses, and the public service obstructed.

I do therefore request you would advise me how to proceed, that I may not be chargeable on the one hand with an infraction of the Law, nor on the other, that the public service be not impeded, or the Gentlemen of the Army subjected to unreasonable difficulties.

I am with great Regard,

your obedt humbe servant,

OWEN BIDDLE,

Ass. C. Gen. Forage.

Directed,

Public service. To Colonel Charles Pettit, Assistant Quarter Master General. Present.

* Col. Rec. Vol. XII. p. 336.

Charles Pettit to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, 2d May, 1780.

Sir,

The cases mentioned by the Assistant Commissary General of Forage in his letter to me of the 1st Instant, which I shall inclose herewith, seem not to be fully provided for by the Act of Assembly of this State, though they may, perhaps, by a fair construction, come within the meaning of it. But as military officers are not always the most candid expounders of Statute Laws, I request the directions of your Excellency and the Council upon the matter, which may relieve the Officers of the Forage Department from unjust censure on yielding due obedience to the Law.

I have the honor to be,

with great respect,

your Excellency's most

obedient humble servant,

CHA. PETTIT,

A. Q. M. Gen'l.

Directed,

To his Excellency The President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, May 2d, 1780.

Dr Sir,

The enclosed Letter fell into my Hands when the Board was not sitting. But as the Subject of it is entirely out of our Line, I do myself the Honor of sending it to you, that, if you think proper, you may lay it before the Council.

I am with much Esteem,

your very obed. servt,

RICHARD PETERS.

The Gentlemen who write the Letter are much to be depended upon. Mr. Fisher's Exertions, while the Enemy were in Philadelphia, do him much Honor. I mention him as being more particularly acquainted with him.

Directed,

To his Excellency President Reed.

General Wm. Irvine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp, near Morristown, May 2d, 1780.

Dear Sir,

The Inspector General Inspected our Division this day, & insists it is incompatible with the dignity of an officer in the Line, to act as State Agent; & adds that the Commander in Chief makes a point of having all such appointments discountenanced.

I told him I would inform your Excellency of this matter; at the same time I must beg to remind you that Mr. Swaine is of no manner of Use to us in the Character of State Cloathier. As he is of the Councils appointing, I did not like to apply to the General to dismiss him. But I hope you will appoint one in his stead, as it is a great disadvantage to the Troops, not having one allways present.

I am of opinion that one good man could do the duties of State Cloathier & Agent of Stores.

Desertion still prevails to a vast degree; not less than 47 from my Brigade last month. Want of Provision & other hardships, I believe are leading causes, together with the little Value of their pay. (The Resolution for making up the deputation being looked on only to amuse—I mean by the soldiery.) There is another cause which excites uneasiness. Officers who are now out of service are too ready to give Men Certificates respecting the term of Inlistment, most of which are false, as many of the Original Inlistments are yet in the hands of Officers Commanding Regiments.

The deluded men look on these Certificates as an over Ballance for the Inlistments; some of them have had the audacity to say, The Officers have Forged them. I am sorry to say a number of Magistrates have acted at least, unguardedly in these matters, by taking exparty Oaths, or administering them to old Serjeants, & even some of the Soldiers themselves, in their own behalf. Certificates of these Oaths are poured down in torrents on us by almost every man who has returned from Furlough.

Mr. Scott of York Town, seems to have taken the lead. General Lacey has given some Certificates in which he must have been grossly mistaken; in short they are numerous from all parts of the State. It is a pity so many inadvertancies should be committed —I call them so, as I can not suppose they mean to injure the service. I wish I could say so much for the Supernumary officers, but am too well convinced they are prompted by a low & designing cunning.

The Baron Steuben informs me that unless I could assure him that 400 Recruits would arrive in Camp for our Line before the first of June, a Reform must take place for the Campaign. His calculations are to level the 10 Regiments to form 8 Battalions, these to turn

out one Battalion of Infantry, which are to be kept allways compleat; even this Plan will take at least 200 Recruits, on a moderate calculation to keep up the Battalions, which he says must be 260. This will be a very disagreeable business, more so as he says no other Line will have to undergo a reform, as each State have promised to send as many Recruits as will aford the arrangement he proposes. He will not admit a total Reform of the Regiments, he means it for the Campaign only; he also says if some few should not joyn he fears the whole must be thrown into one Brigade; should the ten Regiments be thrown into even the Division it will brake up General Hand's Brigade; this will necessarily bring on an enquiry whether he belongs to Pennsylvania. I have at length obtained a Resolution of Congress, authorising General Washington to order an enquiry made into, & finally determine my claim of rank. There has not yet been time to get any thing done in it, & I believe a Board will not be able to determine it till it is previously ascertained what State he really belongs to.

I wrote Col. Farmer, requesting he would furnish me with an account of the Articles of Summer Cloathing, & when we may expect them. The Troops are extremely in want of Shirts in particular; two weeks time will make linen overalls, not only most comfortable, but really necessary, as the Woolen ones are worn out.

I am, with the greatest esteem,

Dear Sir,

your most obedient

Humble Servant,

WM. IRVINE.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

Sec. of Council to Thomas Paine, 1780.

Philad^a May 2nd, 1780.

Sir,

The Council have had some intimation of a private resolution of the house of General assembly, respecting the defence of the Frontiers. If there be any such resolution the Council request you will furnish them with it as soon as possible, the frontiers being in extreme distress.

I am with due respect,

your humble servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

To Thos. Paine Esq.,

Pres. Reed to Col. Samuel Rea, 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 1st, Inst.* inclosing Lt Col. Kerns which contains a particular Acc^t of the Depredations of the Savages has been duly received, & laid before the Supreme Executive Council. We are extremely concerned at the unhappy State of the County, which we would do every Thing in our Power to relieve, but are sorry to observe by your Letter that there appears so little Disposition in the County to adopt the only Means of Relief which the Nature of the Case admits. Every one acquainted with the Nature of Indian War must be sensible that Assistance drawn from remote Parts must be very inadequate to the desired Purpose, whereas a regular & well formed Militia supported by the State, & being on the Spot must certainly, be the surest Defence & best Safeguard to the Inhabitants. We observe you express a Desire that the Militia of the adjoining Counties should be called, but it seems extraordinary that if your own People are as mentioned in your Letter disobedient, they can expect that others who are more distant should go to protect them. A very considerable Part of Northampton County must be from its Situation as secure as some Parts of those who are called upon, it is our opinion, therefore that you should with all expedition form the Militia in your County, & require their Service, after which you will have a very just Expectation of Assistance from the adjoining Counties, & we shall most certainly comply with every reasonable Request for that Purpose. As an Encouragement to repulse the Savages & form volunteer Parties we have offered Rewards for Prisoners, & Scalps, agreeable to the Proclamations herewith which we would have you communicate as generally as possible, & by all Means in your Power encourage the young Men of the County, & even of New Jersey to turn out in small Parties endeavour to fall in with them on their Marches, & even follow them to their Towns, This from Experience has been found the most effectual Plea of Contending with this subtle, & dangerous Enemy.

In addition to these Measures we have concluded to raise a Company immediately upon the Terms proposed in the enclosed Papers, & that no Time may be lost, we desire you in Conjunction with Mr Arndt, or if he is come away with two of the Sub-Lieutenants to appoint the Officers agreeable to the Plan inclosed, & set them immediately to recruiting Men reporting to us the Names of the Officers so that Commissions may be sent them, & other arrangements made for their Support, & Equipment: if they will find their own Blankets, & Arms they shall have a reasonable allowance, & as the Terms are very liberal, we hope there will be no difficulty in getting good Officers as well as active vigorous young Men to serve

* See page 221.

under them. They are to be under your immediate Directions, & hope they may be found useful. Having lately forwarded up some ammunition we cannot think it necessary to send up more as we do not see how the last Supply can yet be expended. In a little Time the Country will remove the Pannick which seems to have struck them, & we have no Doubt will exert themselves with suitable spirit & Vigor.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble. Sev.

J. R.*

Indorsed, May 3d, 1780.

To Col. Samuel Rea, Lieutenant of Northampton County.

Sam'l Morris, Reg. to Sec. Matlack, 1780.

Sir,

About half after one o'clock Mr R. Morris attended at the Office with Miralle's Will & Translation, I took notice to him that there were no persons expressly named Executors, for which reason he said he would have ye advice of Counsel, and said that he thought it might also be proper for me, and he thought the fittest person to advise with was the President; you'l do me the Favour, to let the President know how much I shall think my self Obliged to him for his advice in this matter, and will wait in expectation of it before I proceed farther.

I am, his & your's &c.,

SAML. MORRIS, REG.

Monday 3 o'Clock P. M.

I have sent the Translation done as Mr Morris says by his Clerk.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack Esqr.

Present.

Indorsed,

1780 May 4th, from Saml. Morris Register of Wills.

Instructions to Capt. Nathan Boys, 1780.

You are with all Expedition to engage Volunteers not exceeding 30 exclusive of Officers, & proceed down the River Delaware in Pursuit of several Boats manned by Refugees from New York whom

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 336.

you are to treat as the most inveterate Enemies of these States. As an Encouragement to these Volunteers they shall receive Provisions, Arms & Ammunition, from this State for the Arms & Ammunition the Officers are to be accountable on their Return, and for every Prisoner taken or Man necessarily killed you shall be entitled to receive 1000 Dollars, the same to be divided among the Officers & Men in the following Proportions.

Commanding Officer,	4 Shares.
2nd, in Command,	3 Shares.
3d, in Command,	2 Shares
& every private, one Share	

Indorsed, May 3d, 1780.

Owen Ferris to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Esteemed Sir,

Necessity absolute Necessity, Compels me to apply in Behalf of the Troop raised in Philad^a County, for a few Horsemen Swords, as they cannot properly Equip themselves under two months, knowing that it is a Desire near to your Heart that they Should be properly trained, it Imboldened me to make this application.

Suffer me to assure your Excellency that we shall be ready at your call, & allways happy to have you at the head of us

Should the favour be granted us of 30 Swords, I will be accountable for them, & return them Whenever I am ordered.

& am Sir, with Esteem,

Your most obe^t Servt,

OWEN FERRIS.

German Town 5th May 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Pres. of Congress, 1780.

In Council,

Philad^a, May 6th, 1780.

Sir,

We have the most authentick Information that the Legislature of the State of Delaware have taken off all Restrictions upon the Exportation of Provisions from that State, in Consequence of which a Number of Vessels are going from this Port to take in Cargoes

of Provisions at Wilmington & other Places there.—The Contiguity of Chester, Lancaster, & other Wheat Counties of this State to those Ports leaves no Room to doubt but that every Precaution on our Part to prevent the Passage of Flour to those Ports would be fruitless—the Exportation of Provisions will therefore be as unrestrained from this State as if the Embargo was discontinued here; with this Difference that the State will be deprived of the Advantages of Export without benefitting the United States in any Respect. We have been & ever shall be anxious to shew our Respect & Attention to the Desires of Congress & most sincerely lament every Deviation of this Nature. But we have too much Confidence in the Candour & Justice of Congress to suppose they will desire a Continuance of the Restriction when it can only distress other States without serving the Common Cause. We also beg Leave to add that the Legislature of the State in the Embargo Law have clearly expressed their Ideas on this Subject by providing that in Case the Embargo should appear unnecessary, or in Case the neighbouring & adjoining States shall not concur in equal Restrictions upon the Exportation of Provisions this Board should suspend the Embargo.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect & Regard

your Excell'ys most Obed.

& very Hbbl. Serv.,

J. R.

Col. Michael Lynderwood to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

I beg leave to lay the distressed Situation of the Inhabitants over the blue Mountains before you and the Honble Council, several Families have already moved together on the Waters of Little Schuylkill, they are within about 15 Miles of Gnadenhuth, where some of the Inhabitants have been Murdered, and this Settlement is nearer to Susquehanna than that the Savages fell on in Northampton County, and of Course more liable to an Invation. They have therefore Applyed to me to Lay their Critical Situation before your Honble Board, and to request an order to Col. Morgan, the Lieutenant of the County, for some Arms and Amunition to be delivered out to those who are too poor to furnish themselves, from the Public Stores now in Reading, they given Security for the safe return of the same. Those People are allready Imbodied, and if tolarably Supported, are determined to defend themselves and property, until a better relive can be given them.

The Inhabitants of Northumberland are still defending themselves, and if by proper Assistance can be kept from removing, I hope the

Savages will be prevented to come in small parties into our Settlements, which otherwise will be undoubtedly the Case. I rely on all the Assistance in the power of the H^ble Council, and am

Sir,

your mo. Humble Servt,

MICHAEL LYNDERMOOD, Col. 4th Batt^n,

Berks County.

Reading, May 6th, 1780.

Directed,

On public service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President Supreme Executive Council of Pensylvania, Philadelphia.

Pres. Reed to Wm. Lewis, 1780.

Sir,

Capt. McClean has applied to the President of the State officially to support him on the Part of the State in defending a Suit or Suits brought by you ag^st him while in the Execution of the Orders of Gen. Washington, a Certificate of which he has produced. On a Representation to the Council it is thought proper to direct Capt. McClean to attend to morrow at 12 ^oClock in the Council Chamber when it will be determined whether the Att^y Gen. shall be directed to defend the s^d Suit. As you are the Attorney in this Suit it is also thought proper to desire your Attendance & more especially as Capt. McClean suggests some Circumstances personally affecting you.

Pres. Reed to Marine Committee of Congress, 1780.

In Council,

Philad^a, May 8, 1780.

Gentlemen,

There are a Number of Boats mann'd by Refugees from New York who infest Delaware Bay, interrupting the Navigation & Intercourse between this City & the adjoining States & Country. This is a Matter which affects the common Interests as well as those of this State in particular, we have therefore fitted up some Boats &

ordered the Officers heretofore commanding the Gallies of the State to proceed down the River against them. It was fully expected that the Encouragement offered would have induced a sufficient Number of Volunteers to join the few Sailors in the Pay of the State, but we are disappointed. We have therefore to request that you will spare a few Men from the Frigate on this special Emergency. They will be supplied with Arms, Ammunition, & Provisions, & receive a Bounty on every Refugee taken Prisoner or killed, & Capt. Boys or commanding Officer will be careful to have them returned. We flatter ourselves this Request will the more readily be complied with as the Ship was almost entirely mann'd last Voyage by the Seamen of this State, & indeed many of them impressed with Circumstances of particular Hardship.

I am, Gentlemen, with Respect & Esteem,

your most obed. Hbbl. Serv.

Gen. Wm. Irvine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp near Morristown May 8th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I received your Excellency's letter of the 18th ult° & have informed the Field officers of the contents, shall forward Certificates of the Vacancies as soon as some claims of Rank can be adjusted.

As our supplys are all out, & have been a considerable time, I have sent Mr Little down, (who acts as State agent at present) I fear there has been some misunderstanding about his calculations, which were handed to the Counsel by General St Clair, he calculated for the supposed number that might be present in April, & May, taking for granted the whole would be then present, as there was a standing General Order that neither officer nor Soldier should be absent after the 1st of April. Lieut. Little has been bred to business, & I believe the line have no objection to his continuing provided, any Officer can with propriety. I wrote to your Excellency the objection to this by Major Hamilton.

I am with the greatest esteem,

Your Excellencys,

most Obedient

Humble Servant,

WM. IRVINE.

Directed,

On Publick Service.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed Esquire.

Philadelphia

Lieut. Col Weltner to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Northumberland 8th May 1780.

May it Please your Excellency,

I had the Hon^r of receiving your Excellencys favour of the 4th,* of april Ult. But flatter myself that I have taken such measures as will Effectually prevent the like misfortunes for the remaining part of the Campaign, I have fortified the Frontiers with a Chain of 4 out Posts, Extending from the North to the West Branch Viz^t: 1st Fort Jenkins, 2nd Bossley's Mills, 3^d Fort Mt Gomery, & 4th the West Branch near Boens Mill, all which are Garrissend by my Own Regiment, which is so much to the Satisfaction of the Inhabitants together with the uncommon Harmony Subsisting between us, that I make no Doubt but that we should make a most Noble stand against a very formidable Enemy. As to the Rebuilding F^t Muncy, I have Consulted the Gentlemen you mentioned, the result of which was, that it would tend to the Prejudice of the Service; as the Distance is so great, that the Number required for that purpose could not be furnished out of the few Troops here, without leaving the remaining part of the Frontiers Open to the Ravage of the Enemy, but should a Reinforcement come, should be Exceeding Happy in Executing your Orders, which should be done with the Utmost Expedition. Am Extremely sorry to Inform your Excellency that we are ill Supplyed with Provisions we Seldom or ever having above Six days on hand, & lately some of the out Posts have been on half allowance, which should the Enemy attempt to Block up, they must Innevitably Surrender, or Perrish; I sent to Lancaster, Carlisle, & Coxtown but received little Supply; whether the Default is in the Staff, or for want of the Necessary Orders Cant Determine, but Earnestly request your Excellency will give the Necessary Orders for forwarding a Sufficient Supply in Case of an Exigency. As Col. Antis Instructions prevents his buying any fresh Provisions the Officers & Sick are much Distressed for want thereof, therefore hope your Excellency will Instruct him to purchase such Articles as may be absolutely Necessary for their Supply. which may be Easiy had at this Post., Messrs Mt Gomery, & Martin, the two Gentlemen who are Representitives for this County, Can Inform your Excellency of our Circumstances on this Account, Occasioned by the Conduct of our former Commissary; the Uncommon Delay of the Boats, & the great Consump^t happening thro Neglect, or Embezlement, of the Hands, has Induced me & the Gen^t to endeavour to find out a Remedy, & have found a Gen^t one Col. Henry Antis who has a Boat of 20 Tons Burthen, who is willing to Contract for Delivering the Stores, &c, forwarded for the use of these posts in good Order, & with the Greatest Expedition, which I am fully Convinced will be a

* See page 161.

much less Expense, & without Consumption, or Embezlement, therefore would be Glad of your Excellency's Sentiments on the Matter. As I am Certain nothing will break the Harmony between us & the Militia Except the Shortness of Provisions & Ammunition; with which if we are well supplied, I think We & this County will be able to Defend our selves, Except an uncommon Number of the Enemy, more than is to be Expected will attack us As to the Compl^ts ag^st me from Sunbury, I hope my Short Defence laid before the Board of War, together with the Vouchers from Eminent Gentlemen to the Contrary; with their own Contradictions on the Subject will Sufficiently Evince your Excellency the Charges being Malicious & Groundless.

I have not been able to obtain an Exact return from the County Lieu^t of the Militia in Actual Servise, otherwise would have Transmitted you a return of the Number of Rations drawn, but am Certain, My Regiment, Militia, Boatmen, & others passing, & Repassing, Intitled to Provisions, Amount to 600 pr. day at an Avarage I Earnestly request your Excellency's Immediate Answer, with your Special Instructions, Respecting the Different matters herein Contained, & Conclude with Due Respect

Your Excellencys most obedient

Humble Sev^t,

LUD. WELTNER.

Lt. Col. Commander G. Regiment.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Governor of the State of Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia

℔ Sec^ty Wyantt.

Pres. Reed to C. J. McKean, 1780.

In Council,

Philad^a, May 9th, 1780.

Sir,

We have received a very particular Representation from the Army of the great Inconveniencies & Injury done the military interests of this Country by the Conduct of the Justices of the Peace who undertake to judge of the Expiration of the Terms of Service of the Soldiery. It is found that they often proceed upon the loosest & most uncertain Evidence but it seems to perplex the Officers & injure the Service. We cannot help thinking the Justices assume a Jurisdiction only vested in the Justices of the Supreme Court & therefore request you would as Opp^r offers caution them against this

Interference. Mr Scott of York Town is named as particularly blamable on this Account.

The General complains much of the supernumerary Officers giving Certificates to the Soldiers but I do not know how that can be prevented the Consequences would be less injurious if the Justices did not act in the Matter.

The Desertion of the Army is very alarming & the Officers complain that when they go into the Country they get little Assistance from the court officers & people perhaps some publick Observations might be of Use with such Directions as may be proper to be given to the Magistrate & Constables to apprehend Deserters.

We have no News from Charlestown the Marquis de Fayette is said to be arrived at Boston. Mr Jay & Mr Gerard are arrived at Cadix. The British & French Fleets of 21 and 23 Sail are out so that we are in hourly Expectation of some important Intelligence from that Quarter.

Be pleased to present me respectfully to your Colleague & believe me with much Esteem.

Your most obed. & very Hble serv.

J. R.

Directed,

Ch. Justice McKean.

Pres. Reed to Col. John Piper, 1780.

In Council,
Philada, May 9th, 1780.

Sir,

Your Favours of the 8th April & by Major Cluggage have been duly received.

At the same Time there came down a Col. McLeavy with a Petition from a Number of Inhabitants from your County. The Amount of his Request was that Relief should be sent to the Valley where he lives & he proposed it should be done by Volunteers receiving Militia Pay. Major Cluggage being present in Council they seemed to differ in Opinion as to the Mode of assisting the County in its present Distress whereupon they were desired in Concert with Mr Scott the Member of Westmoreland to give us a Plan for the Relief of the County at the same Time assuring them that we should assist with Money, Arms & Provisions if necessary that a Company of Rangers should be raised as soon as Money could be procured for the Purpose of which we have daily Expectations. Many & great Difficulties occur in calling out Militia from the inner Counties, but still we should not hesitate to comply with

this when the State of the Militia will admit in the mean Time we recommended the getting the Militia of the County in the best Order so as to be ready to repel any Incursions. Col. McLeavy appeared very much dissatisfied & has returned without receiving our Answer or settling the Affair on which he had come down. From the Temper in which he left this Place it is probable he may make a discouraging Report to the People which you will do well to explain. In the mean Time to give all the Encouragement in our Power we have appointed the Officers of the ranging Company & sent up to be employed by you in raising the Company unless the Exigences of the County should require it to be laid out for immediate Defence & Protection. We also send you several of the Proclamations lately issued & as Experience has fully shewn the Inadequacy of every Mode of Defence heretofore used against the Savages we hope this with the Encouragement you & the other Gentlemen of the County give will have good effects. The Officers nominated to the Companies were recommended by the Members of Assembly, we must request you to nominate the third officer if such Nomination is immediately necessary. But as the Security of the County is the great Object of our Care if the Appointments are not such as to answer this End we hope as it is your Duty you will let us know it in Time. We observe there are many Complaints against Capt. Cluggage in Col. McLeavy's Petition which we wish had been presented in Time.

Wishing you much Safety & assuring you of our Intentions to render you every necessary Service.

I remain Sir

your obed. & very Hble Serv.,

J. R.

Pres. Reed to Michael Lyndermood, 1780.

Sir,

I received your Letter of the 6th Inst.* & laid it before the Council. We are much pleased with the Spirit shewn by the Inhabitants as described in your Letter & are resolved to give them all possible Encouragem. for which End have wrote to Col. Morgan to give you such Assistance of Arms & Ammunition as may be necessary. We hope a prudent Use will be made of them & that as the Arms are publick Property Care will be taken that they shall be returned. We have directed the Lieutenant of Northampton to raise a Company of Rangers immediately & intend to persevere in every kind of Relief which their distressed Circumstances require & our Affairs will admit. The Want of Money is the principal Article of Necessity

* See page 230.

owing to the great Delay of the Taxes you and & every other Friend to his Country & these poor People will serve it effectually by forwarding the publick Taxes every Way in your Power.

I am Sir

your most obed. & very Hble Ser.

J. REED.

Indorsed,

1780, May 10th. To Michl Lindemood Esqr Colonel of 4th bn of B. Coy Militia.

Pres. Reed to Thomas Edwards, 1780.

Sir,

In answer to your Letter of the 28th April I take the Oppor to inform you that it is the Desire of Council, that you will settle the Account alluded to without Delay, As the Whole Money stands charged to you, it is expected you will acquit yourself thereof by showing how it is disposed of, & it may be proper for you to let those among whom it was distributed know that it is expected they render an Account of their Trust, as soon as possible. There are Auditors now sitting for the Settlement of the publick Accounts & the Enemies to the Cause, & Government take great Occasion to reproach us for the Neglect we have shown in the publick Accounts, & the imputed Misapplication of the publick monies. Of the large Sum issued last Fall for the Purchase of Flour of which you received a considerable Part, not one Tenth Part has been accounted for. From hence Government is censured, & private Characters suffer.

As no Flour was received from Lancaster County we cannot conceive how the Charges should be such as to make the Residue in your Hands inconsiderable; but whatever it is, the Justice due the Country requires it should be settled & paid. Which it is our Desire you would do without unnecessary Delay.

I am Sir,

Your Hble Sevt.

Mr. Thomas Edwards, Lebanon.

Pres. Reed to Col. Jacob Morgan, 1780.

Philad. May 10, 1780.

Sir,

Col Lyndemood of the 4th Battalion of Berks County has represented to us, that a Number of the Inhabitants of Northampton having embodied themselves for Defence against the Savages, request to be assisted with Arms & Ammunition for the Safe Return of which they will give Security. We think so laudable a Spirit ought to be encouraged & therefore direct you to give them the requested Assistance in such manner as to relieve them & do Justice to the publick. We also send you sundry Proclamations which should be glad you would forward to suitable Places.

I am Sir,
with Esteem & Regard,
your Obed. Hble. Sevt.

Pres. Reed to Brig. Gen. Irvine, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Your Favour of the 25 April & 2d Inst* came duly & safely to Hand. We are sorry that a Point of Punctilio with respect to the State Agent, should be taken up at this Time of Day, & in the present State of our Affairs when Frugality is so indispensably necessary. Whatever may be the Custom of European Armies it certainly rests in our own Opinion, whether such an Appointment shall be derogatory to the Character of an Officer. One Thing I am very sure of that if the Person who is to undertake it is not supported & respected by the Officers, his Office will be a very difficult if not an impracticable one. If the Thing is not too far gone, I should be glad you would confer with the Baron Steuben, & endeavour to divert him from a Measure which appears to us attended with many Inconveniences without any real advantage to balance it. If I had Time I would write myself, but I have no Objection to your using my Name & Opinion. Mr. Swaine's Conduct is by no Means pleasing to us, but if you have the Resolve of Congress of 23d March 1779, you will find that tho' nominated by us he is an Officer of Congress & removable only by the Commander in Chief. It will be therefore quite acceptable to us, if his Conduct could be taken up in its proper Place & Justice done both to him & the Publick. We have frequently intimated to him our Desire that he should reside at Camp but it has not had the desired Effect.

We had flattered ourselves that Desertion had nearly ceased, &

* See pages 206, 225.

thought ourselves warranted in our Opinion by the Estimate of Stores lately sent us in which our Line was computed at
Officers, & non-commissioned Officers, & privates. The Justices of the Supreme Court, having gone upon Circuit we have recommended to them in the Strongest Manner the putting a Stop to the Interference of the Justices in the Case of discharging Soldiers. I am clearly of Opinion that the Justices of the Supreme Court only upon a Habeas Corpus have a Right to determine the Expiration of Service, & would advise that the Officers in such Case should decently, & respectfully decline their Authority. Gen. Lacy will write to you on the Subject, & we have taken particular notice of Mr. Scott of York Town.

I do not know how we can check the Supernumerary Officers but if we can Stop the Justices their Certificates will have little comparative Effect.

I must acknowledge my good Sir, that in the present State of our publick Affairs as to money, I see no Prospect of recruiting the Number of Men Baron Steuben calls for, We must therefore concur in some Plan for levelling the Regiments, I am sensible it is an unpleasing Business, but the all powerful Law of Necessity admits of no Alternative. I am told that at this Stage of the Business, The Taxes are found too burthensome at least Relaxation is called for which shows they have been imprudently required or very injuriously withheld. I am very glad you are likely to bring your affairs to an Issue; I think it is quite Time it should be settled, & your Rank determined, & have no Doubt Justice will be done. Col. Farmer has Orders to prepare a Quantity of Linnen Overalls, & a Supply of Shirts, which will be forwarded as soon as they are got ready—Pray, inform me with Respect to Hats—if you can do without them, till the Fall Clothes, it would be best.—I am, with much Regard, Yours, &c.

Indorsed, May 10, 1780.

Extract of a Letter from the Committee of Congress at Head Quarters, 1780.

Extract of a Letter from the Committee of Congress at Head Quarters, dated 10 May, 1780.

'Unless money is immediately furnished to pay for the Transportation of Supplies from the different magazines in hired Carriages, and to redeem the publick working Cattle which the Farmers in every Quarter hold in Pledge for the Payment of their Subsistence through the winter, every Plan of Supply must prove nugatory, and all we have done or can do, relative to the arrangements of those Departments will be inadequate to the great Object.

Such are the accumulated Distresses of the Army at this Conjuncture, and such the Effects of a repetition of want, that it has had a very pernicious Influence on the Soldiery; their Patience is exhausted by being exposed to such frequent Sufferings, that they already begin to ascribe to a Defect of resources what they have hitherto been taught to believe was from accidental Impediment. Their starving Condition, their want of Pay, and the variety of Hardships they have been driven to sustain, has soured their Tempers, and produced a Spirit of Discontent which begins to display itself under a Complexion of the most alarming Hue. If this Spirit should fully establish itself, it must be productive of some violent Convulsion infinitely to our Prejudice at home and abroad, as it would evince a want of means, or a want of wisdom to apply them, either of which must bring our Cause into Discredit, and draw in its Train Consequences of a Nature too serious to be contemplated without the deepest anxiety.

On examining into the State of Provisions in Camp, we find there is not more meat than will last until the 12th Inst^t. Mr Blaine is come up, and we learn from him that he has no Prospect of an immediate Supply of this Article. The only resources we can turn our Eyes to, in this Exigency, is the State of Pennsylvania. If they fail to make *instantaneous* Exertions, for the relief of the Army—we will not pretend to say what may be the Event—!'

Extract of a Letter from the Commissaries General of Purchases and Issues, to the Commander in Chief, dated Morristown, 9 May, 1780—inclosed in the above mentioned Letter of the Committee.

'It is truly distressing to us to inform your Excellency that the Supply of Meat will be totally exhausted on Friday next at farthest. The Flour here will suffice, if made into Bread, as has lately been the Practice, for fifteen or sixteen Days, and by advice from Trenton we ascertain that fifteen hundred Barrels of Flour are at that Post, and on the road from thence to Camp; one Hundred Barrels of which Charles Stuart has ordered to King's Ferry for the use of the Garrison at West-point, and one other Hundred to be delivered to the Commissary General of Prisoners, for the use of the Prisoners at New-York and Long-Island.'

Gen. Geo. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Head Quarters, Morris Town, 11th May, 1780.

Sir,

It has been represented to me, by Brig. General Irvine, and by Lt Col. Hay of the 10th Penn^a Reg^t, that Michael Everly, a Sergeant of that Reg^t, was promised an Ensigncy by Col^o Humpton for his extraordinary exertions in inducing the Soldiers to reinlist, and upon

many other services. From the above consideration, and from the want of Subaltern Officers in the Regt., I would recommend Mr Everly to the promotion which has been promised to him, and which, if confirmed, is to bear date the 1st October, 1779.

I have the honor to be,
with great Respect,
Sir, Yr Excellency's most obt Servt,
G° WASHINGTON.

Appointed May 16, 1780.
T. M., Sec'y.

Directed,
His Excellency, Govr Reed, Philada.

Francis Hopkinson to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philada, 11th May, 1780.

Sir,

I request the Favour of your Excellency to procure me a warrant of Council for Nine months' Salary, due the 16th of April last, as Judge of the Court of Admiralty for the State of Pennsylvania.

In doing which you will greatly oblige
Your Excellency's most
obedient, humble Servt.,
FRAS. HOPKINSON.*

Directed,
His Excellency President Reed, Phila.

Col. Atlee to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Pequea, May 11th, 1780.

Sir,

Agreeable to the wish of Council, I have seen the former Lieutenant in Lancaster, and have endeavoured to prevail with him to finish the Business of the old Department, but to little purpose.

It will not be done unless some proper persons were authorized for that purpose.

This being done I flatter myself I should be able fully to answer the expectations of Council with respect to the Militia of this County.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 49, 347.

The people who have served, and paid greatly grumble at the partialities (as they term it) shown to those who have done neither; they think it hard to be obliged to render treble service, when numbers have satt at Home, and reaped every Benefit without contributing.

The above business being finished nothing wou'd be wanting to render us respectable here, but Arms to be occasionally putt into the Hands of the Militia.

The Battalion of Lancaster I think might be made a very respectable one, they have chosen a sett of exceeding good officers, many of them such as have been in the Continental Line, the remainder Gentlemen of Caracter, who are determined provided they meet with the proper encouragement to take particular pains, and wish to be foremost in service.

Arming this Battalion I think would be attended with good consequences, where so many of the British officers are, who as often as the militia meet, view our enfeebled situation, and no doubt embrace every opportunity of giving information thereof.

It would give me great pleasure, and for which I shall thank Council, if Arms cou'd be ordered me for a part of the militia; it wou'd bring to Life the dying spark, kindled at the beginning of this glorious Contest, and give a shock to the Enemy, who wou'd be immediately apprized of it.

The Officers have collectively beg'd I would request it of Councill and have assured me the greatest care shall be taken to keep the Arms fitt for Service.

It cannot be doubted but great numbers of the publick arms are distributed in the different Counties, these cannot be got at by the modes prescribed in the law as few will care to give information to the Magistrates. I shou'd think it wou'd be best for Councill to issue their proclamation demanding those who are possessed of such arms and accoutrements, under such penalties as Councill shall judge proper to deliver them forthwith to the Lieutenants of the different Counties, and therein authorize them to appoint proper persons to search for and seize the same.

I am Sir,

Your and the Councills

Most Obed^t. & very Hble Servt.

SAM. J. ATLEE.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr Presid^t of Councill.

Gen. John Armstrong to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Carlisle 12th May, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Your Excellencys favour of the 18th ulto, is come to hand some time ago, since the receit of which I have necessarily made an excursion thro, some parts of this County, and have not failed to attempt awakening the minds of all that came my way, respecting the necessity of expedition & punctuallity of paying in the Tax, a delinquincy as shameful as it is like to be fatal to our affairs. I shall urge & I believe prevail with the Board here to issue a fresh circular letter on the Occasion to the Collectors, who in my Opinion are greatly in fault notwithstanding the various appologies by them made, the greatest whereof is the money due them from the Continent without which many say they cannot pay. The Treasurer of this County tells me he has advanced to the Staffe department near £60,000.

Altho' no very late Indians depredations have been committed within this State, yet is the Situation of our inhabitants on the Susquehanah deplorable indeed, and if not Speedily relieved I should not think it at all strange if by next Harvest Carlisle should be a Frontier, nor is their One Moment to be lost in Sending Troops into that Country however little we are to Expect from measures merely defensive, which in the first instance is perhaps all that can be promised. The Militia is the Only refuge I presume we have, to begin with, necessity compels the measure, and if nothing in the way of State Troops (I mean now to be raised) can be done, may not some of our Regiments in the Line be procured to Strenthen, & lead on the Militia. In Case of this or any Other effort of consequence intended for the Security of this State, let me recommend to yr Excellencys consideration the bearer of this Col. Richard Butler, a very Capable & well disposed Officer. If he Should be thought of for a Command North or Westward, you will no doubt manage that matter with the Commander in Chief, and Shall only at present Say that of this Gentlemans discretion, & abilities as a military Officer and especially in this back Country where his acquaintance must give him an advantage, I have a very good Opinion; and on an interview or two you will find him a genteel man, as well as an Officer in high repute thro'out the State.

I am hurrying to the utmost of my power, & under private diffi-

culties as well as general discouragement, to get down to Congress, hopeing to set out in eight days or thereabout.

And am with great respect,

Your Excellencys Most humbl. Servt.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Major Armstrong begs leave to present his Compliments being lately come down from Genl. Gates, whom he left in health.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire President of the State.

Philadelphia.

Favoured by Coll Richard Butler.

Council to Col. Hannum, 1780.

To Col[t] Hannum:

Sir, The Council having had a general account of the murder of M[r] Boyd, of your County, while in the discharge of his duty as a public officer; And being determined to pursue the most vigorous and effectual measures for bringing the perpetrators of so horrid a crime to the most exemplary punishment, have requested M[r] Bradford, the bearer hereof, to go down to the neighbourhood where the crime was committed, and collect on oath a full account of it. He is also requested to obtain an exact and full description of the murderers (in order that they may be advertized) as it is probable the Council will issue a proclamation for apprehending them. The Council request you and the good people of your neighbourhood will afford M[r] Bradford every assistance and civility in your power. I am, with great respect,

Your most obed[t] servant,

T. M., Sec'y.*

Phila. May 12, 1780.

* See proclamation in Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 349.

Genl. Wm. Irvine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp near Morristown May 12th 1780.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit your Excellency, herewith, certified lists of the promotions which are to take place in the Division. I have every reason to believe they are just, as the mode I took to ascertain & adjust them was to issue a Division Order calling on the Colonels & Adjutants for accurate Rosters & Returns. This done so publickly gave every officer an opportunity to lay in claims if they had any, none has been made. I also inclose a Division Return, Colonel Harmar assures me Genl. St. Clair took one with him for the Council. I wish to know whether this kind of Return, or what is called an Inspection Return will be most agreeable, the latter shows in a clearer point of view the state of the Regiments either shall be sent regularly. I need not urge the necessity of expediting the forwarding the Commissions. As Council must be sensible how much spirit, regular promotion gives an Army.

I have the Honour to be
Your Excellency Most obedient
Humble Servant,
WM: IRVINE.

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire.

Francis Hopkinson to Pres. Reed, 1780.

May 12th '80.

Sir,

I am much obliged to your Excellency for the Order on the Treasurer in my Favour but beg leave to point out an Error in the Sum. Nine months salary at £500 ⅌ An. should be £375, & the order is only for £337 10 as I suppose this was not intended, I have inclosed the order for Re-examination. I know not whether it is the will of Council that this should be paid in the same manner other salaries are paid or in the depreciated Currency, as the Order now stands the Treasurer thinks himself authorised to pay it in Continental Dollars only at 7 ⅌ Dollr. I urge nothing but wish to know the Intentions of Council.

I have the Honour to be with all respect and Esteem,
Your Excellency's
Most obedient and humble Servt.
FRA: HOPKINSON.*

Directed,
His Exc'y Presdt. Reed.

* See page 241.

University of Penn'a. to Pres Reed, 1780.

Academy May the 12th 1780.

Sir,

We understand from the Revd Doct^r Ewing that the former Laws of the College are in the Council Chamber, and as a proper digest for preserving decency & good order is much wanted, you will greatly oblige the Professors by ordering them to be sent to them.

The Whitsun Holidays commencing on Monday next if the Committee for Repairs would order some to be made in the english school necessary before any of the latin Classes can come in to write it would give satisfaction to the Parents of the youth under our care & oblige,

Sir, your very Hbbl. Servts.

J. CANNON,
ROBT. DAVIDSON.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

Col. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Fort Pitt May 13th 1780.

Dear Sir,

The Mingoes are again prevailed on by English Goods & address to disturb our repose. They have lately killed and wounded several people in Westmoreland County & the Tracks of four parties have been discovered on that frontier within the last four Days, and two parties of Indians have crossed the Ohio between Logstown and this place since Morning.

I have only the Cullings of the last years men left, and can do but very little to prevent their incursions, but do all I can.

The Delaware Indians continue their professions of Friendship and some of them are now with my Scouts but having nothing but fair words to give them I expect they will soon be tired of this Service.

For heavens sake hurry up the Companies voted by the Honble Assembly or Westmoreland county will soon be a wilderness.

I have received a flemish acc't of the Regimental Stores part of which remain at Bedford, as soon as the residue comes up, I will send you an account of the articles rec'^d. at this place.

If it is possible prevail upon his Excell'y the Commander in chief to send up only five hundred good regulars and I will pledge my

reputation to give a tolerable account of the Copperheads provided provisions (which are very searce) are furnished in time for an Expedition.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest regard & Esteem your Excellencies

Most obed't. Servt.
DANIEL BRODHEAD.

P. S. Please present my respectfull Comp'ts. to Col°. Jno. Bayard.

Directed,
His Excell'y Jos. Reed Esqr.

SEC'RY. MATLACK TO J. BAYARD, 1780.

An application has been made to His Exc'y the President, by Mr. Kinlock, Delegate in Congress from S. Carolina, requesting that Mr. Cannon may be permitted to go express to Charlestown on very special business. The President, unwilling to take the weight of a refusal on himself, desires a board of the Trustees to decide on the application immediately. His Exc'y the President, Hn'ble Vice President, yourself, D^r. Shippen, M^r. Searle, M^r. Muhlenburgh and myself will form a board if you will please to tarry after this conference ends, the answer may be given.

T. M.

Directed,
Hn'ble J. Bayard, Esqr.

JACOB S. HOWELL TO COUNCIL, 1780.

Philadelphia May 16th 1780.

Gentlemen,

The Honorable board of War have given directions for a Quantity of old & damaged Clothing to be disposed of, of which Inclosed is a copy,—by order of General Wilkinson I request your Honorable board will be pleased to grant permission for the City Vendue master to sell them at public sale. General Wilkinson would have made the application himself but on the receipt of the order of the Board of War he was in his Carriage going out of town.

I have the Honor to be, with the greatest respect, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient
And very Humble Servant
JACOB S. HOWELL, D. C. Gen.

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr. President of the supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, May 17, 1780.

Sir,

I have the Honor to inclose your Excellency, a Letter from Captain Alexander of the 7th Pennsylvania Regiment on the subject of promotions, which has reference to some returns lately transmitted the Hon^e Council from Head Quarters,—as the Board have no powers to justify a compliance therewith, they request your Excellency will be pleased to furnish them with such authority as may be necessary for the execution of the Business.

I have the Honor to be with the highest respect,

Y^r. Excellency's

Most obed. Hble Servt.

JOSEPH CARLETON Secy. P. t.

By order.

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

Chaloner and White to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philada., May 18, 1780.

Sir,

Agreeable to the request of your Excellency we have taken particular pains to inquire what fat Cattle were for Sale in the vicinity of this City. We have been on the Meadows & Islands below Darby, and find but few fit for Slaughtering, & those that are, the persons on whose Farms they are feeding say that they are already engaged. The Cattle that now are feeding in a general way are not yet Beef, but will in a few Weeks be of good quality. To slaughter such now, either private or publick, we think is incurring a public loss.

We are your Excellency's most

Obedt. h'ble servts.,

CHALONER & WHITE, A Cof. Ps.

His Excell'y, Joseph Reed, Esq.

MATTHEW SMITH TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Northumberland Town, May 18th, 1780.

Sir,

I am unhappy Enough to Inform you the Savage Enemy have on the 16th Inst., made a Stroke on the Inhabitants of this much Distress'd County at Buffaloe Valley. At French Jacob Grozong's Mills four Men kill'd, viz., Jno. Forster, Jun.,—Eytzwiller, James Chambers & Samuel M'Laughlen. The Enemy Got only one of the Scalps. The Neighbouring Inhabitants on hearing the fireing Briskly turn'd out and pursued the Enemy Very Brave, But was not Able to Overtake them, the Inhabitants have stood here Indeed longer than Could Been Expected, were it not Desperation. But, Sir, unless Some Support Can be Instantly afforded the State must Shortly Count one County less than formerly—which God forbid. I Refer you, Dr Sir, to the Bearer, *Gen. Potter*, for further Information, as he waits on horse Back, whilst I write this Imperfect, Distress'd Accct. Provisions none, Cash none, nor Can it Be had in this place. Gen. Potter's Accts. from this place to the Hon'ble, the Assembly, which I Doubt not you will see, Will fully satisfy you of the state of this place.

I am, Dr Sir, your most Obt. Humble Servt.,

MATTHEW SMITH.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Pr. Gen. Jas. Potter.

COL. BRODHEAD TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Fort Pitt, May 18th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I am honored with your favor, in Council, of the 29th ultimo.,* and am happy in the assurance that the Delaware Indians were not concerned in the Murders of our Inhabitants, as was at first expected. On the contrary some of them act with our Scouts, and seem very desirous of discovering the Enemies parties. And I have great reason to believe that a considerable number will join me upon the first capital enterprize I can undertake.

It is much to be lamented that our Treasury, & of course resources, are so low as to prevent our raising the necessary Troops to Defend ourselves against the Incursions of a few Savages. But I trust the

* See page 218.

worst is past and we may expect a great plenty of every necessary at the close of this Campaign.

You may rely on my giving an equal protection to Westmoreland whilst the means are in my power. But as the Commissaries are forbid making Purchases of future supplies, I expect my endeavours will soon be at an end for want of Provisions. In this exigency I shall, however, venture to direct the purchase of such provisions as may be necessary to subsist my Troops, but the public credit is so much wasted that I fear it cannot be had without great difficulty.

The encouragement given by the Hon'ble Executive Council is great, and I wish it may have the desired effect, but I apprehend that it will be construed into a License to take off the Scalps of some of our friendly Delawares, and produce a general Indian War. I am not ignorant of the influence of the Delaware Councils over near twenty different Nations, and it is for that reason only why so much notice has been taken of them. There are villains amongst them as well as other People, but it must be confest that their Councils have been steady, and their young men serviceable, and if a small assortment of Goods, Paint & Trinkets could be had for them they might, in my opinion, be brought to take a full benefit of your proclamation. But paper money, without goods, they cannot be taught to consider as a proper reward.

The Hon'ble Congress has done me great Honor by the attention paid to my situation with regard to the troublesome part of the Inhabitants, and the imprudence of a neighbouring set of Justices. And I have a happy presage that by its intervention things will be reduced to a degree of certainty on this side the Alleghany Hill.

I have the Honor to be, with the utmost respect & esteem,

Dear Sir, your most obedt. Servt.,

DANIEL BRODHEAD,
Colo. commanding W. D.

His Excellency, Jos. Reed, Esq.

Saml. J. Atlee to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Pequea, May 19th, 1780.

Sir,

I find great difficulty in getting the Companies properly officered in some part of the County, owing to the irregularities in the former Lieutenancy. The best men are much sour'd, and will neither accept of Command or appear at Elections, untill the delinquents under the late Law have been obliged to pay the Fines incurr'd by their non-performance of Military Service, &c.

I have attended several Elections and have been obliged peremptorily to refuse reporting to Council sundry persons chosen.

Few freeholders attend; the Choice made by such as Montesquieu describes in his Spirit of Laws "to be in so mean a situation is to be deemed to have no will of their own," and consequently fell upon such as were not fit to Command, and some of infamous carracters.

I have deferred nominating Officers to Council, in expectation that I shall prevail with the principal Inhabitants to meet and choose for themselves. I hope at length to succeed, having assured them that Council will endeavour to have the outstanding Fines collected; this being compleated I expect I shall have little difficulty in executing my office.

The purchasing departments, from the prices of the articles being stipulated, I fear Sir, cannot succeed, higher prices in hard Money are given in the Country for Corn, Oats and Hay than allow'd by Councill in their Instructions to be given in the new money to be emitted. Untill the Credit of the new money can be fully established higher prices must be given in that than are demanded and received in Specie, or little will be purchased.

I am, Sir, with the greatest esteem and Respect,
Your Excellency's most obed.
and very H'bble Servt.,

SAM. J. ATLEE.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Circular of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, May 19th, 1780.

Sir,

Congress have received authentic information that his most Christian Majesty is preparing to send a powerful Naval and Land force to some part of the Continent of North America. This force generously calculated either to produce a diversion in our favor, or to forward the operation of our arms by being directed to the same object, may either by our Exertions be made the means of delivering our Country in the course of the Campaign from the ravages of war, or being rendered ineffectual through our supineness serve only to sully the reputation of our arms, to defeat the benevolent intention of our great ally, and to disgrace our Confederacy in the Eyes of all Europe.

Every State that reflects upon the depreciation of the currency, and

their own deficiency in the payment of their taxes must necessarily conclude that the Treasury is exhausted.—The Military departments are at a stand for the want of money to put them in motion: Congress have no resources but in your spirit and virtue, upon these they confidently rely. You know the value of the prize for which you contend, nor need you be informed how much you are interested in a speedy termination of this distressing and expensive war.

But as the smallest disappointment in the requisitions they make may be attended with the most serious consequences, they have endeavoured so to limit their demands as not to exceed your power to comply with them.

The sum for which you are called upon by the within resolution they flatter themselves you will furnish to the Treasury by the fifteenth of June at furthest without neglecting to discharge the orders that have been drawn upon you for the whole of which, you will receive credit on your account of taxes due on the first of March last.

As this money is absolutely necessary to put the army in motion independent of the purchase of provisions, we trust you will by no means remit your attention to the forwarding your quota of supplies, which the present exigency renders more requisite than ever.

It may not be improper to suggest to you that if a strict and immediate collection of taxes should be insufficient to procure the necessary sums within the time limited, it may perhaps be more speedily obtained by loans.

Congress for the greater dispatch have thought it expedient to appoint a committee to assist the Commander in Chief in drawing out supplies. As their powers will be inadequate to the purposes of their appointment unless they shall derive force from the States to whom they will be under the necessity of applying, they most earnestly request you, if you should find it inconvenient to continue your Sessions to lodge such powers in your Executive, or some part of your Legislative body, as will enable them at this interesting period on the application of the Committee to call forth the resources of your State.

Congress trust that these requisitions will not appear unnecessary, when compared with the information on which they are grounded. In the importance of which they doubt not that you will find a sufficient apology for the demand and the warmth with which they intreat you to carry these measures into immediate execution.

By Order of Congress,

SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

Genl. Knox to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Morris Town, 19th May, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I have received your Excellency's favor of the 10th instant, respecting the incorporation of the loose companies belonging to the State of Pennsylvania, with Col. Proctors regiment. This has been so ardently my wish, that I have endeavor'd to the utmost of my power, to have it effected, and so long ago, as the 30th of last January, I wrote pressingly to the board of war on the subject, but I have not received any answer from them.

I inform'd the board, that late Lee's and Porters companies, had been part of Col. Lambs battalion, since its first formation, and that it would be injurious to take those companies from it, without giving it an equivalent, therefore I propos'd that New Jersey should be call'd upon by Congress, to raise two companies of artillerymen, to be added to Lambs in lieu of Porters and Lees. There could not have been any impropriety in this measure, as New Jersey have had two companies of artillery in the field from January '77, to last January, when the times of engagement of almost all the men expir'd. I should suppose policy would induce this State, to raise the companies immediately on a requisition of Congress. However, nothing has yet been done with respect to the matter.

A committee of Congress are in Camp, to make every arrangement which shall be thought necessary; I shall lay this subject before them, and do not conceive of any further difficulty than what I have mention'd, of the injury Lambs regiment will sustain;—I cannot suppose Colonel Procters officers, can have any reasonable objections as all the vacancies in that regiment are filled up. It is my earnest wish that the whole Corps of Artillery should be as completely organiz'd as the nature of the establishment will admit, and nothing on my part shall be wanting to effect it.

The field pieces borrowed from the State of Pennsylvania, by the Continent, can be return'd without any inconvenience to the Public Service. I believe there are two under that description now in the park, I do not know whether there were any more borrowed, if there should have been, and your Excellency can obtain the marks of them, and an order from the board of War for their delivery, I shall take particular pleasure in returning them to the State, in perfect repair with my hearty thanks, for the services they have render'd.

I am with much respect, Dear Sir,

Your Excellencys most obedient

Humble Servant,

H. KNOX.

Directed, His Excellency President Reed.

Pres. Reed to Pres. Powell, of Massachusetts Bay, 1780.

Sir,

We are informed that one Samuel Chapman, a Subject of this State, who joined the British Army in December, 1776, & took a Commission in that Service, has been captured by a Vessel of War, & carried into the State of Massachusetts Bay, & is treated with an Indulgence due only to Officers of a different character. Being attainted in this State, & peculiarly obnoxious as an Officer of a Corps employed in harassing the Inhabitants, stealing Horses, & such like Practices, we request he may not be exchanged, in the ordinary Course, but kept untill a favourable Opp^y offers to bring him into this State, that he may be dealt with according to his Demerits.

I have the Honour to be, with much esteem & regard,

Sir, Your most Obed. &

very Hbbl. Servt.

Indorsed.

May 19, Hon. Jeremiah Powell Esq., Pres^t of Mass. Bay.

Isaac Roach to Capt. Boys, 1780.

Sir,

I have the plasure of Informing you of my Arriveing Safe at this place yesterday. We have heard no Intillagance of any of the Enemies Boats—only one that was Drove a Shore a few miles to the Southward of Cape henlopen, the Crew supposed to be lost As five or six men has been found on the Beach Drownded; this happened about ten Days ago. Our Beef & pork Is half Expended.. I have made application to Major Fisher for a Supply & he has promised to furnish me with it. I shall wait here a few Days to Convoy several Shallops from this place up the Bay, Which I hope will meet with your approbation. I have not been able to get any more men as yet. Haveing not to ad, I have the Hon^r to subscribe my Self,

Sir, your very,

Hum^bl Servt,

ISAAC ROACH.

On board the Delawar Schooner, in lewistown Creek, May 20th, 1780.

Directed,

To Nathan Boys, Esqr., at Philadelphia.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, May 19th, 1780.

Resolved, That the States of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts bay & New hampshire be most earnestly called on to collect & pay into the continental treasury, immediately if possible, & at all events within 30 days from this time, ten millions dollars for the special purpose hereafter mentioned, in the following proportions; the payments to be credited to the said States respectively on their quotas of money due to the United States to the first of March last, viz.,

Virginia	1,953,200
Maryland	1,234,350
Delaware	132,800
Pensylvania	1,796,950
New Jersey	703,950
New York	585,950
Connecticut	1,328,050
Rhode Island	156,250
Massachusetts bay	1,796,950
New Hampshire	312,450

Resolved, that bills be immediately drawn, under the direction of the board of treasury, on the honble. Doctr B. Franklin for 25,000 and on the honbl John Jay for 25,000, payable at sixty days sight; That they be offered for sale in Massachusetts bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pensylvania, Maryland and Virginia in the following proportions, viz.:

Massachusetts bay	20,000
Rhode Island	3,000
Connecticut	8,000
Pennsylvania	10,000
Maryland	5,000
Virginia	4,000

Resolved, That the money to be raised as aforesaid be appropriated and applied solely to the bringing the army into the field, & forwarding their supplies in such manner as the exigency and nature of the service may require.

Resolved, That the committee at head quarters be directed to expedite the drawing forth the supplies for the States, required by the resolution of Congress of the 25 of Feb'y last, as the exigency & nature of the service of the case may require, and the commander in chief shall judge them necessary.

That in case of any extraordinary emergency, more of any of the articles enumerated in the said resolution shall become necessary

than is therein provided for, That the said committee, with the advice of the commander in chief, do apply to the Legislature, or executive powers of any of the States aforesaid, from New Hampshire to Virginia inclusive, as may be most convenient, to have them immediately purchased at the expense of the United States, or otherwise procured on the credit of the same, if necessity shall so require.

That the said com^ee give directions for procuring any other articles not provided for in the said resolution of the 25 of Feb'y, which th exigency of the service may, in the opinion of the commander in chief, render necessary, & direct the proper application to the civil magistrates of any of the States for obtaining them in such manner as shall not admit of delay.

That the said com^ee be also authorized to give assurance, where any of the aforesaid articles shall be purchased or otherwise procured on the credit of the United States, that the just value of the same shall be paid with interest at 6 per cent., as fast as money can be raised for that purpose.

That the said com^ee report their proceedings to Congress once a fortnight.

Resolved, That the Legislatures, from New Hampshire to Virginia inclusive, be requested to invest their executive authority, or some other persons, with such powers as will enable them on the application of com^ee aforesaid, to draw forth, at this critical period, the resources of the State.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

In Congress, May 20th, 1780.

Resolved,

That the several States be earnestly requested to forward their quotas of Troops to join their respective corps of the Army as soon as possible.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, May 20th, 1780.

An Extract from the minutes of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was laid before Congress, purporting that "Mr Peale, Mr Blewer, Mr Hayes, Mr Wynkoop, Mr J. Anderson, Mr Orr, Mr Smith, Mr Jones, Mr Dresbach, Mr Pow-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 360.

ell, Mr Sloan, & Mr Martin were appointed a Committee to confer with Congress, in company with a Committee of the Supreme Executive Council, on the subject of the loan Office certificates issued by the Officers of the state department."

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to confer with the above Committees.

The members chosen, Mr Elsworth, Mr Houston, and Mr Henry.

Extract from the minutes,

GEO. BOND, Dep'y Sec'y.*

P. Penet to Council, 1780.

To the Honbl Govr & Council of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen:

The misfortunes I suffer'd on board the Confederacy having retarded my arrival in Europe, I am sorry to tell you it is out of my power to send at present the five thousand Fusees conformable to the Tenor of my Treaty with you: they were to be dispatch'd in January last; I arriv'd in France only in March, & are now here in the storehouses. Knowing your immediate want, I wou'd fain forward them to you though the Time for their Expedition is pass'd: But no vessels nor men can be found, they are in the Government Service. For all I went to Versailles to sollicit an Exemption for some of them, my sollicitation was not Granted. The Royal Navy must have the Preference is all what is urged at this Time: Consequently, the Circulation of Commerce is intercepted. My House was forc'd to charter our vessels to the King four months before my arrival in France. But, we hope, our disagreeable Circumstances are soon to be alter'd. By the first opportunity as soon as I can find a good sailing vessel in this place bound to your Parts, I will ship your muskets.

I must inform you that I am determin'd to stay here during the war. For your advantage, & that of the Americans in General, I will endeavour to promote every Opportunity tending to give you satisfaction. An exact & immediate compliance, as much as possible, with your orders is what I recommend to my House; I shall be happy to receive them & continue to be your constant Correspondent.

I bespoke your Standards in Paris; I expect them every day. They will be sent to you by some French frigate. Capt Saml Smith, who has been ready to sail for some time, will deliver to you, as soon as he arrives in Philadelphia, the seals representing the arms of your State. As you desir'd, they were engrav'd at Paris.

Were you to appoint a Commercial agent in France, I beg you

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII. p. 360.

would bestow that Honor upon me. Your Excellency was so kind as to promise me before my departure you would make a motion in my Favor in your Council. If I could be so happy as to obtain that mark of your Confidence, my Conduct would soon evince the Utility & Propriety of your choice.

I have the Honor to be, with profound Respect.

Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient, devoted,

Humble Servant,

P. PENET.

Nantes, the 20th May, 1780.

Capt. Allen M'Lane to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Head of Elk,
May 20th, 1780.

Sir,

A desire to be comprehended by the State of pencelvania as one of their offisors, induces me to trouble your Excell'y to lay my request before the Honourable House of Assembly. I flatter my self you will think with me i have every necesary pretention to the notice of the State; it is the place of my nativity; i have long made up my mind to remove my residance their. As i wass under the necescaty of Disposing of my property in pensylvania or deleware, i chose to sell out in deleware, and directly after the Enemy Evacuated phil. i remioved my family to the City, ware thay now breathe.

It is true i had the misfortune to live in deleware when I reci'd a commission in one of the additional Regts. When the arrangement took place i Requested to be annexed to the Delaware Regt, as I wass injured in point of rank in the one I had served in, the Hon. Congress was pleased to annex me to Majr Lee's Corps. I am the only offisor of said Corps that is not provided for by some one State.

I am now on my march to the Southward, and may not have another opertunity of having my situation considered.

Should you take up Idea and present my request, the service will be acknowledged by your Exells most obed. Servt,

ALLEN M'LANE.

Directed,

His Excell'cy Joseph Read, Esq., President State Pensilvania.

Samuel Rea to President Reed, 1780.

May it please your Excellency:

I embrace this Opportunity by the Rev^d Mr Treat, to inform your Excellency, that since my last, Signed by Mr. Ordt, the 13th Inst, That Col. Bond, of New Jersey, haveing receved Intelegence that a Party of Torries on the 12th Instant had appointed to meet near the Water Gap of Delaware in this Township, and from thence make off to the Indians Headed by a Certain Robert Land, late of Cashectong, an old offender, whom I had made Return of about 2 years ago to Council, and was Confined some time in Easton Goal; but at the last Supreme Court of this County has been admitted to Bail, as the judge did not find his name in the Proclamation. Col. Bond having found out the very time of their march, placed a few Volunteers in Ambush, who forc'd upon them and Wounded two of the enemy, upon which two of them were made Prisoners, viz: Ralph Morden and a British Prisoner, who, it seems, had leave to run at large; they had each of them near 30 lbs of Flour on their Backs. Land, 'tis said, was seen to fall when fired upon, and dropt his knapsack, Beaver hat & Cane; 'tis supposed he was Mortally wounded, as there was plenty of blood discovered next morning; dilligent search has been made, but to no purpose; ,tis thought he was either killed or Conveyed away, Probably by the Tories, as a number of them reside near the Place where the action hapn'd. Morden, it seems, made some Confession, but, as the particulars have not come to hand, cannot favour you therewith.

I am Likewise to inform your Excellency, that when the Alarm of the Inhabitants when Gilbert's Mills was burnt, and the People Captivated, the Sub Lieut. in that Quarter have called upon and placed near 100 Men, and stationed them near the Lehi Gap, under Col. Kern.

And as the Township of Lower and upper Smithfield &c., remains as yet unguarded, for the reasons assigned in my Lett^r of May 1st. Have called upon the next Class in rotation, under the new arrangement, to march to their relief. I must again renew my request to Council for a supply of Ammunition, as what hath come to hand is nearly exhausted to the needy Inhabitants, that lived most exposed to danger; so that but very litle remains to supply the Militia in future. As the Returns of all the Officers names in the several Battles of this County, is not yet compleated, must defer that affair to some future Opportunity. I have wrote to Col. Kern for an exact list of the Men under his Command, which will shortly be Transmitted to your Excellency. I am your Excellency's most obedient & most Humble Servant,

SAML. REA, Lieut.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the Executive Council of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

☞ favour of the Rev^d Mr Treat.

Ephriam Blaine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philad^a, 20th May, 1780.

Sir,

I left Head Quarters late on the evening of the eighteenth, and find it will be impossible to feed the Army without the Aid of the Legislative authority impowering their Commissioners to purchase or to take Cattle wherever they can find them fit for use.

The want of Money last fall deprived the Agents from securing any large quantities of Salt Provisions, and the severity of the winter has deprived many of the Connecticut Farmers from feeding Cattle, on whom our principal dependance was for Beef; those circumstances, and our Salt Provisions being exhausted, has reduced the Army to half allowance of Meat; indeed on this day there is not a single pound in Camp.

This State is capable of furnishing a considerable number of Stock Cattle, which will make good Beef if proper means are adopted to collect them. I would beg leave to point out to your Excellency the proper places:—the County of Chester and the Meadows on Delaware, Lancaster, Bucks & York Counties; indeed, a few may be provided in each County. The States of Jersey and New York have been so drain'd we can expect very little Assistance from them; therefore, without your speedy Aid in giving a Supply of Meat, the Army must undoubtedly disband for want of that necessary Article. Would beg your Excellency to give immediate Orders to the County Contractors to enter upon the Execution of their respective Purchases with all possible dispatch, as a very few Days will reduce me to want every necessary for the Army, and oblige me to call on the Contractors for the Supplies required from this State.

I am, very respectfully,

Your Excellencies most obedient

& most Hble. Servant,

EPH. BLAINE, C. G. R.

Directed,

Public Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire. Present.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, May 22d, 1780.

The Committee to whom was referred President Reed's Letter of 6th,* brought in a report, which was taken into consideration, & thereupon.

Resolved, That in the opinion of Congress it is highly inexpedient for any of the States to permit the exportation of provisions, to foreign parts until the exigencies of the public Service, are more fully ascertained and provided for than at present.

That it be earnestly recommended to the Delaware State again immediately to lay an Embargo on the exportation of provisions from that State and to continue the Same untill it Shall be consistent with the public Safety that the like embargoes Should be discontinued in all the United States.

Ordered, That a Copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to the President of the Delaware State and also to the President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania in answer to his Letter of the 6th.

Extract from the minutes

GEO BOND, Depy. Secy.

Indorsed,

May 22nd 1780.

Oliver Ellsworth to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

The Committee of Congress, are ready to confer with the Committees of the Supreme Executive Council and Assembly, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on the Subjects of the enclosed Resolution at such Time and Place as they shall appoint.

I have the Honor to be,

on Behalf of the Commee.

your Excelly's most obedt.

and very hble. servt.

OLIVER ELLSWORTH†.

Indorsed,

Monday May 22nd 1780.

Directed,

His Excy. The Prest. of the Supreme Executive Council, Pennsylvn.

* See page 229.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII. p. 360.

Pres. Reed to Speaker of Assembly, 1780.

Sir,

The enclosed Minute of Congress was brought to this Board on Saturday, but your Hon. House having adjourned, no Resolution could be had.

We shall be ready to attend the proposed Committee whenever it suits the Convenience of the House, our Information of which will enable us to notify the Committee of Congress as to Time and Place.

I am Sir, with great Respect,
& Regard, Your most Obed. Hble. Sevt.
JOS. REED.

Indorsed,—To John Bayard, Esq., Speaker.

Col. L. Nicola to Pres Reed, 1780.

Gentlemen,

Mr Mc Knight informs me he spoke to several members of the Councils, in regard to his claim of half of Johnstons prise money, who all told him those matters were entirely left to me to finally determine, but desired I would lay his claim, as far as appears to me before you, supposing I can take his word as to the latter, I send it enclosed, but do not think a verbal message sufficient for the former, & would rather fall short than extend any authority beyond the intention of those vesting me with it, therefore request your directions as to this matter, assuring you that if Mr Mc Knights information is right I shall determine the matter as speedily as possible with due regard to equity & the interests of the State.

A very valuable prise being sent into this port by three privateers on board of which we may reasonably suppose there are several deserters from the American Army, & as buying shares or parts of shares has become a great article of speculation, I beg leave to propose my publishing an advertisement, as agent for the State, cautioning all persons from buying from deserters or suspected persons, and as my discovering deserters is very precarious, offering a reward of 50 dollars to every person who will give me information of the names of such as may come to their knowledge, if by this means we discover any the 50 dollars will be well laid out.

Permit me to assure you that I am with respect,
Gentlemen, your most humb. & obedt. servt.
LEWIS NICOLA. T. M.

Indorsed,
23 May, 1780.
Directed,
To His Excellency the President, & the Honbe Executive Council of the State.

James Johnston Entered on board the Sloop Active a deserter from the eight Virginia taken and sent to his Regiment.

Mr Robt Mc Knight claims half this mans share in consequence of a purchase made at Chester the 18th of April 1780, for which he paid Johnston 13 Guineas in Gold.

Johnston deposited part of the purchase money in the hands of Alexr Tindal, Sailing master to the sloop Active. When in the New Goal he obtained permission, I suppose from Mr Robert Jewel, to go to Alexr Tindal to take this money out of his hands, & in presence of Mr Mc Knight demanded nine guineas, the Amot of the Deposit. Tindal, informed of the resolve of the council refused to give the money, till Mc Knights Claim was settled.

I wrote a Letter to Mr. Tindal, then out of Town, requesting he would pay the deposit money into my hands, for which I would give him a proper receipt, this letter Mr Mc Knight undertook to foreward and yesterday informed me Mr. Tindal was returned to town and that he had given my letter and Recd a verbal answer that he (Tindal) would pay the five guineas deposited in his hands when his (Mc Knights) claim was settled.

LEWIS NICOLA.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, 24 May, 1780.

Sir,

I am now to lay before your Excellency an Act of Congress of the 22d* Instant, in Consequence of your Letter of the 6th Instant, by which you will be informed of the Sentiments of Congress, and the Measure they have adopted relative to Embargo, and in particular respecting the Delaware State, in the present Situation of public Affairs.†

I have the honor to be,
with the highest regard,
your Excelly's hble. Servant,
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

His Excell'y, President Reed.

* Col. Rec. Vol. XII. p. 332.
† See page 261 of this.

Memorial of Officers of Pennsylvania Line, 1780.

May it please your Excellency:

We, the Subscribers, Officers belonging to the Pennsylvania line, beg leave to represent, that we have been frequently informed that many, if not most of the places to which the unfortunate Prisoners were appointed, have been since filled up by others, and that many of the Captive Officers who have been so fortunate as to be exchanged, have met with no o'her reward for their painfull imprisonment, but a dismission from the Service.

We must confess the verry Idea of meeting with such a reception, when good fortune shall restore us to our Country, wounds our feelings, and renders Captivity more Irksome; we have, however, the most perfect Confidence that your Excellency will not willingly Patronize such proceedings, and flatter ourselves that a short time will put an end to our already long Captivity, and give us an Opportunity of once more serving our Country in the Ranks we are entitled to.

We have the Honour to be, with great respect,

Your Excellencies most Ob^t Humble Serv^ts,

JOHN DUGUID, Lieut.,
WILLIAM CRAWFORD, Lieut.,
THO^s JANNEY, Lieut.,
JOHN RUDULPH, Lieu^t,
ANDREW DOVER, Lieu^t.

Long Island, Flat Bush, May 24th, 1780.

Pres. Reed to Adam Witman, 1780.

Philada., May 24th, 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 3^d Ult. was duly received, and it gives us great Concern to see so unhappy a Spirit prevail in several Districts of your County. Prudence, accompanied with Firmness, & a strict Resolution not to be frightened or seduced from the Performance of your Duty, is the Line which will carry you through with Safety. And you may depend upon our Support therein. There has been a Mr Shultz with a Complaint against the Commissioners, but we did not think proper to enter into it—at the same Time recommending him to apply himself to the Justices of the Supreme Court, who will sit at Reading in a short Time. To them have also forwarded your Letters setting forth the various Obstructions & Difficulties you have met with. We would have you apply to them on their coming into

the County, & receive their Advice & Direction, which will afford you a safe Guide for your Conduct, as well in bringing turbulent Opposers of the Laws to Justice, as enabling you to proceed with Satisfaction to yourselves & Benefit to the Publick.

They will also take suitable Notice of those Gentlemen of the Law whom you represent as promoting Opposition, & harassing the publick Officers in the Performance of their Duty.

I am, Sir,

Your obed. & very

Hble. Serv.,

JOS. REED.

P. S. You will communicate this Letter to the other Commissioners.

Indorsed,

1780, May 24th. To Adam Witman, Esqr, Comr of the Tax for Berks County.

Pres. Reed to Officers of Militia, 1780.

The President of the State with Pleasure embraces the first publick Oppy to thank the Gentlemen of the Troop of Light Horse, of Artillery & Infantry Militia, for their numerous & military Appearance last Tuesday—so respectable a Body of Citizens armed in Defence of American Liberty, after five Years cruel War waged against it, must afford true Delight to every Lover of his Country, & strike our Enemies, both internal & external, with Despair. The Spirit & Attention shown by the Officers in so short a Time since their Appointment, is a most happy Omen of their future Improvement & Success, & we may justly flatter ourselves that their Example will diffuse its influence through the whole State, combining the three great Qualities which constitute the Patriot Soldier—Courage, Discipline, & an ardent Love of his Country.

JOS. REED, President.

Indorsed,

1780, May 25th. To the Officers of the Militia.

Pres. Reed to Merchants of Phila. 1780.

Gentlemen,

Having some Time ago represented to the Hon. Congress the interesting Situation of this State, under the Restrictions of Exportation while the neighboring State of Delaware has opened its Ports, I shall be glad to communicate the Answer this day received to you, & receiving any Information on this important Subject, for which Purpose I request the Favour of your Attendance at the City Tavern to morrow at 12 o'clock,

And am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedt & very,
Hbble Sevt.

To the Merchants of Philadelphia.

Committee of Congress (at Camp) to Pres. Reed, 1780.

In Committee of Congress.
Morris Town, May 25th, 1780.

Sir,

Since we had the Honor to address our letter of this day, His Excy. The Commander in Chief has favoured us with one—Copy whereof is inclosed.

Had the necessity of Compleating the Regiment, to the Complement he States, appeared to us as indispensible before, as it hath done since the receipt of his letter, we should not have hesitated a moment in recommending the measure, being perfectly persuaded of its propriety.

We have the Honor to be,
With the greatest respect,
Yr Excys. most Obedt Sevt.

PH SCHUYLER,
JNO MATHEWS,
NATH PEABODY.

His Excy. Joseph Reed Esq, Govr of the State of Pennsylvania.

Gen. Washington to Committee, 1780.

(Copy.)

Morris Town, May 25th, 1780.

Gentlemen,

I have attentively considered the Circular letter to the different States which you did me the honor to communicate for my perusal and I am happy to find that my ideas perfectly correspond with those of the Commttee.

The view they have given of our situation is just, full and explicit; the measures they have recommended are well adapted to the emergency and of indispensable necessity. I very freely give it as my opinion, that unless they are carried into execution in the fullest extent and with the greatest decision & rapidity, it will be impossible for us to undertake the intended Cooperation with any reasonable prospect of Success.

The consequences you have well delineated. The succour designed for our benefit will prove a serious misfortune; and instead of rescuing us from the embarrasments we experienced and from the danger with which we are threatned, will in all probability, precipitate our ruin. Drained, & Weakened as we already are, the exertions we shall make though they may be too imperfect to secure success, will at any rate be such as to leave us in a state of relaxation and debility, from which it will be difficult if not impracticable to recover. The Country exhausted—The people dispirited—The consequence and reputation of these States in Europe sunk—Our friends chagrined and discouraged—Our Enemies deriving new credit—new confidence—new resources.

We have not, nor ought we to wish an Alternative,—The Court of France has done so much for us, that we must make a decisive effort on our part. Our situation demands it, 'tis expected. We have the means of success without some unforeseen accident, and it only remains to employ them. But the conjuncture requires all our wisdom, and all our energy. Such is the present State of this Country, that the utmost exertions of its resources, though equaly, is not more than equal to the Object, and our measures must be so taken as to call them into immediate & full effect.

There is only one thing, I should have been happy the Committee had thought proper to take upon a large scale. I mean the supply of men by Draught. Instead of compleating the deficiencies of the quotas assignedby the Resolution of Congress, of the 9th of Febuary last, it would in my apprehension be of the greatest importance that the respective States should fill their Battallions to their complement of five hundred and four rank, & file. Considering the different possible dispositions of the Enemy and the different possible operations on our part, we ought not to have less than Twenty

Thousand Continental efficient Troops. The whole number of Battallions from New Hampshire to Pennsylvania inclusive if complete, would not amount to this force. The total would be Twenty three thousand one hundred & eighty-four rank & file, from which the customary deductions being made, there will not remain more than about Eighteen Thousand fit for the service of the field. To this may be added the remainder of the Sixteen Regiments amounting to about One Thousand.

Unless the principal part of the force be composed of those regularly organized, and on the continuance of whose services we can rely, nothing decisive can be attempted. The Militia are too precarious a dependance to justify such an attempt, where they form a material part of the plan. Militia cannot have the necessary habits nor the consistency either for an assault or a siege. In employing those essentially, we should run a risk of being abandoned in the most critical moments. The expense, & the consumption of provisions, & stores (which we are bound by every motive to economise,) will be very considerably increased. As we should not be able to keep the same body in the field during the whole campaign, we should a great part of the time have a double set of men to pay & feed,—those in actual service, those on the march to relieve them or returning home when relieved. The operations of husbandry will suffer in proportion.

The mode by draught is, I am persuaded the only efficacious one to obtain men,—it appears to me certain that it is the only one to obtain them in time, nor can the period you have appointed for bringing them into the field be delayed without defeating the object. I have little doubt, that at any time and much less at the proposed juncture,the powers of government exerted with confidence will be equal to the purpose of draughting. The hopes of the people elevated by the prospects before them, will induce a chearful compliance with this and all the other measures of vigor which have been recommended and which the exigency requires.

Notwithstanding the extension of the Draught which I have taken the liberty to advise, occasionally aids of militia will be still wanted but in much less number in this case than in the other.

I have entire confidence that the respective Legislatures will be fully impressed with the importance and delicacy of the present juncture, and will second the views of the Committee by the most speedy and vigorous efforts.

With every sentiment of respect, & esteem,

I have the Honor to be Gent.,

Yr. most Obede. & Hble. servant

G° WASHINGTON.

The Honble. The Committee of Cooperation.

JAMES WILKINSON, C. G., TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Trevos, May 25th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Suffer me to employ a few moments of your Excellency's time respecting the warrant drawn on you in my favor, as it really has become a source of great distress to the Persons I employ, & of extreme perplexity to myself; I flatter myself you will find it consistent to wave the objection to its immediate payment, which originates in the precedence of other Warrants, when I assure you that this was granted me in discharge of arrearages due my Assistant, Deputies & Clerks, agreeable to an abstract presented by me to the Board of Treasury for that specific purpose. Should your Excellency, on this information, view the matter in the light it strikes me, I will take the liberty to intreat that your order may Issue to Mr Rittenhouse, from whom the money can be occasionally recd; and I have the honor to be, with the purest regard,

Your Excellency's

much obliged, obedt & ready Servant,

JAMES WILKINSON.*

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of Pennsylvania

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED,

War Office, May 25th, 1780.

Sir,

The Board requests the attention of your Excellency and the Honr Council to the enclosed extract of Colonel Weltner's Letter.

The Board have it not in their power to give Colonel Weltner any assurances of supplies of provisions, and must depend altogether on the State to support the post.

I have the Honor to be,

your Excellency's

most obedt, Hbl. Servt.

By order of the Board,

Directed,

(Public Service.)

His Excellency President Reed.

War Office.

JOSEPH CARLETON, Sec'y pro tem.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 363.

Extract of a letter from Lt Colo Ludk. Weltner, commanding the German Battalion, dated at Northumberland, the 6th May, 1780.

"Am exceeding sorry to inform you, that if I do not get a speedy supply of provisions, there being but six days' on hand, am afraid I shall be obliged to quit my post; altho' I have wrote to Lancaster, Carlisle & Coxtown, I cannot be supplied except forwarded by your honours."

Baron Steuben to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp, near Morristown, 25th May, 1780.

Sir,

I think it my duty to lay before your Excellency the effective State of the Troops of Pennsylvania. As the Matter at present respects the formation of the Army, I shall not reckon those employed as Artificers, Waggoners, &c., but only the effective fighting men, of whom the Regiments and Companies are formed, & of whom we should form Divisions & Platoons in the Order of Battle, agreeable to the Regulations; all our Arrangements are made in consequence of these Regulations, agreeable to which each Regiment should be formed in Nine equal Companies; of which the Ninth is to be Light Infantry, & the other Eight to form a Batallion.

It is fixed in these Regulations, that each Batallion shall be composed of 4 Divisions, each Division of 2 Platoons, & each Platoon of not less than ten files; so that a Regiment having less than 80 files under Arms, not including Officers, Serjeants & Music, cannot form a Batallion, but must be formed into 2 Divisions making half a Batallion—such, sir, is the system we have adopted in our Army; if we deviate from this, we are without any, & shall fall into that Confusion we have with so much pains been drawn from.

After this Explanation, which I thought necessary, I must request your Excellency to examine the State of your Regiments, & to judge yourself in what manner they can be formed.

The extract annexed is from the latest Returns, excluding those Men who are not to be reckoned on in time of Action—add to this that each Regiment will diminish from the opening of the Campaign, by Sickness, Desertion, &c.

I must also observe to your Excellency, that during the last winter your Line has lost near 300 Men by Desertion, which, unhappily, still continues daily to diminish its Strength.

The Resolve of Congress of February, for the state to Augment the number of Troops in the Field, has unhappily produced an Effect destructive to the Army; and it is very affecting to myself & to all

who wish to see an End to this War, & the Independence of America firmly established, to perceive that, in the moment when the most vigorous exertions are necessary, the States, instead of vyeing with each other who should do the most, observe a contrary conduct, and calculated only to furnish the least to the general good.

I beg your Excellency to submit these Observations to the Assembly of Pennsylvania with every assurance of my zeal & respect.

I have the Honor to be

With the greatest Respect

Your Excellency's most obed't serv't.

STEUBEN.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

State of Pennsylvania Regiments for this Campaign, 1780.

1 Reg^{t}	173 Rank & file,	3 Regt	216	
4	124	6	139	Total.
10	219	11	220	945
7	140	9	101	872
2	289	5	196	
				1817
	945		872	

Reckoning each company at only 34 Men, which is the least number that should be reckened at the opening of the Campaign, there wants to Complete the ten Regt^{s} 1243 Rank & file—but to support the Regiments during the Campaign, the Companies should at least be 40 Men each to complete the Regiments to the number there is wanting 1963 Men, which number would bring the ten Regiments to 3780.

The Quota of Pennsylvania for this year was	4855
supposing they had in their Reg^{ts}	3780
there would still be left	1075

which is about the number they have in the Reg^{t} at Fort Pitt, in the artillery and dispersed in different Corps.

It must also be observed that the state of Pennsylvania, has this advantage of the others, that they have so great a number of Strangers in their Service.

Resolutions of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, May 26th, 1780.

Whereas, it is represented that large arrears are due to the Inhabitants of sundry of these States for provisions, forage & other articles furnished by them to the departments of the Commissary General of purchases and quarter master Genl., for the public service, and for which they have received notes or certificates, signed by persons appointed to purchase the said articles, the payment whereof hath been delayed, to the prejudice of many of the holders, and for which money cannot, in the present circumstances, be issued from the Treasury; therefore,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the legislatures of the respective States wherein such notes or certificates have been heretofore given and remain unpaid, to empower the collectors of continental taxes due to the first of March last, to receive in payment thereof such notes or certificates from the persons in whose names they have been given, on the following conditions,

That the persons paying in the said notes or certificates indorse the same to the collectors who may receive them, and also take an oath or affirmation before a magistrate that they have been obtained for the value of the articles therein expressed, delivered for the use of the United States, and for which no payment hath been made; which oath or affirmation shall be endorsed on each note or certificate.

That in cases where the notes or certificates held by any person shall exceed the amount of the taxes due from such person at the time they are paid in, the surplus be credited by the State to such person and allowed in future taxes under such checks & securities as the respective legislatures may think best suited to their different modes of collection, and that such surplus bear an interest of six per cent. till thus discounted.

Resolved, that the said notes or certificates so endorsed and received by the collectors as aforesaid, being by the Treasurer of such State, delivered to the principals of the respective departments from whom payment is due, or their agents in the city of Philadelphia; and the receipts of the said principals or agents making the principals accountable for the amount of the notes or certificates paid in as aforesaid, being lodged with the board of Treasury of the United States, the respective States shall thereupon have credit for the same on their quotas of taxes due to the first of March last; and if the amount shall in any case exceed the said quotas, the balances shall be paid to the respective States to whom they may be due.

Provided, That nothing contained in the foregoing resolution shall be construed to exonerate any State from the payment of orders already drawn, or to affect the requisition of Congress of the 19th day of the present month.

May 27th, 1780.

Congress took into consideration the report of the committee appointed to confer with the hon'ble, the Minister of France and thereupon.

Resolved, That the board of Admiralty be directed to fit for sea, with the utmost expedition, the several ships of war and frigates now in port.

That it be earnestly recommended to the respective States within whose ports any of the said ships or frigates may be to afford every assistance to the board of Admiralty on their application for artificers, labourers & materials for preparing the same for sea and for compleating their complement of men.

Resolved, That Congress will defray every necessary expence which any State shall incur in consequence of the above resolution.

And for the promoting of harmony and forwarding the common views of France and America, Resolved, That it be recommended to the Legislatures of these United States to pass laws for the punishment of such persons as shall encourage desertions from the fleets or armies of any foreign power who shall prosecute the war in America, in conjunction with these United States, and for recovering such deserters as shall endeavour to conceal themselves among the inhabitants.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Indorsed,

Read in Council, May 30, 1780, and ordered that the same be laid before the Hon'ble House of Genl. Assembly. T. Matlack, Sec'y. Read in Assembly, May 30th, 1780.

Lt. Jacob Morgan to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Reading, 27 May, 1780.

Sir,

I received your Excellency's Instructions of April last for arranging the Militia of Berks County; and also yours of the tenth Instant,* for the delivering Arms and Ammunition to Coll. Lindemuth.

We used the utmost of our endeavours to get the Militia properly arranged; but very few Elected their Officers at the time appointed by Advertisement. We indulged them with a second Election, but

* See page 288.

to little purpose, which has delayed the sending in the inclosed Return until now.

We are yet in doubt whether all the officers appointed by the Lieutenants in said Return will serve, as they have not all been consulted with, therefore,

If Blank Commissions could be obtained it would be attended with much less trouble and expence than sending down another Return of them that should be re-elected or appointed in the place of those that should refuse to serve, or resign hereafter.

If Council would be pleased to Commission David Morgan or some other proper person for a Sub-Lieutenant in the third Battalion, which would be one for each Battalion, the Business would be carried on with more regularity.

I am, with respect, your Excellency's
most Hum. and most obedt. serv't.,

JACOB MORGAN,
Lt. B. G.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia.

Francis Wade to President Reed, 1780.

Wilmington, 28th May, 1780.

Sir,

I am induced from the present alarming situation of our Bay & River trade, to take the liberty of troubling you with the following information, received last evening, which may be depended on, from a certain David Slaughter, who arrived at this place from Duck Cr, & declares that he, with six others, were taken last Thursday morning, by fourteen men in a large whale boat, Commanded by one Taylor, supposed to be Taylor formerly of Marcus Hook, in the following manner,

The evening before the boat took a Schooner loaded with Indian Corn, from Lewis Town, and left her at Anchor, as the Wind nor Tide did not answer, with one man on board, who had belonged to her, when he took the Opportunity of Cutting the Cable and running her on Shore, and in the morning Slaughter, with others, assisted in getting into the Creek, & went to drag for the Anchor, which they had not been long about, when the Whale boat appeared, surrounded & took them all, & soon after a Small Shallop loaded with Oats & Corn, and a new Schooner from Senepuxin Inlet, loaded with

Staves, pork, fur, tallow, &c., they were ashore for a Considerable time, made fire & Cook'd breakfast in the Presence of near twenty men, at the other side of the Creek, that were fishing, and went off, without Interruption, with their Prizes, they said what they had now taken would do for the present; this man says there was a lusty fresh Colour'd man on board the Schooner from Lewis Town, of the name of Fisher, I fear from his description its one of our best friends, Major Henry Fisher, of that place; they seemed to laugh at our Armed Schooner & boats, & did not let on to be under the least Aprehension of danger from them; if some Spirited Measures are not speedily fallen on to put a stop to such depredations, our bay & river trade will be soon totally stoped & no small Craft left to carry it on, which must be Injurious not only to the Citizens, but the States, as a Considerable deal of the Public Stores is to come from the lower part of this State; the only plan, in my Opinion, to catch these kind of gentry is by decoying them, which I have scarce a doubt of Succeeding, if secretly managed, for no Boats that we have can come up with them; their Boat is very lengthy and light & rows with ten Oars; they gave this man his liberty, and took others with them to condemn the Vessals; they took a Small Schooner with Clambs, and after consulting what to do with her, agreed to let her go, as there was a man on board sick and not fit to be moved, which Slaughter brought up to this place. Being Informed by a Gent'n from the City Yesterday that he, with others, had been Called on by some of the members of our house of Assembly, who wanted Information respecting the late laws passed in this State, respecting the taking off all restraint on exports, &c. I have Inclosed one of the Printed laws for yours & their better Information, which I hope will get to hand in time to answer the Purposes Intended.

I am, with Respectful Regards,

Your Excellency's Most obt.,

and Most Humble Servt.,

FRAN'S. WADE.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Fav'd by Mr. McCulloh.

Resolutions of General Assembly, 1780.

State of Pennsylvania.
In General Assembly, 29th May, 1780.

Whereas the present just and necessary War was entered into for the attainment of the inestimable blessings of Liberty and secure Enjoyment of property; the benefits whereof will extend not only to the present, but future Generations; and it is therefore highly reasonable that Posterity should bear a proportion of the expenses, which have already accumulated upon us with considerable inconvenience. And as the fluctuation of the medium of Commerce has proved one of the greatest sources of the present evils, which it is our duty and desire to remedy as soon as possible.

Resolved, That the President or Vice President in Council, together with the Speaker of this House, be authorized to procure upon Loan, from such persons as may be disposed to lend the same, and upon the most advantageous Terms, a Sum not exceeding Two Hundred thousand pounds, Sterling in Specie, subject to the following conditions and limitations, viz. That the annual Interest thereof do not exceed Five pounds per Centum; and that the same may be repaid at any time after the expiration of Ten years; if the circumstances and situations of the State shall require it.

Resolved, That the Faith and Honor of this State be most solemnly pledged to satisfy any agreement to be made by the authority aforesaid, for the purpose aforesaid; and also for the honorable and faithful repayment of the sums so lent, with the Interest as aforesaid, according to the tenor of the Contract or agreement so to be made in behalf of this State.

Resolved, That this House, at their next Session, will provide by Law specific Funds for the immediate payment of the Interest of the money so borrowed or so be borrowed or contracted for; and also for the repayment of the principal thereof, as the Same shall hereafter become due.

Resolved, That this House will also provide for, and honorably discharge, the expences, which may accrue in carrying the above Resolutions into effect.

Extract from the minutes,
SAM. STERETT, Assistant Clerk
of the General Assembly.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President &c. of Pennsylvania.

Circular of Congress, 1780

Philadelphia May 29, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed two Acts of Congress of the 26th, & 27th, Instant*, The former recommending to those of the States where Debts are due to their Inhabitants from the Quartermaster and Commissarys Department by Notes or Certificates given as mentioned in the Act; to make Provision for discounting and discharging such Debts by impowering the Collectors to receive them in Payment of the Taxes due to the first of March last in the Manner prescribed in the Act. It is hoped this mode may prove beneficial in those States where Considerable Debts are due under the Circumstances before mentioned, and in those States only can the act be properly applied.

By the other act of the 27th, you will be informed of the Measures adopted by Congress to equip for Sea the naval Force of the United States with the utmost Expedition, as also their recommendation to the Several States for promoting Harmony and forwarding the common Views of France and America as expressed in the resolution enclosed which it is not to be doubted will meet with due Consideration and Attention from the Several States and receive the necessary Aid of the Legislatures to carry the same into Execution as speedily as the nature of the Case will admit.

I have the honor to be,

with the greatest respect.

your Excelly's hble servant,

SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

His Excelly, The President of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Commrs. of Purchases, 1780.

In Council, Pa. May 30th, 1780.

Sir,

Since you went from hence an unexpected Event has made it necessary to revoke the last Instructions given you with respect to the Prices of the Articles & also with Respect to the Rates at which the Money is to be issued. We have now full Confidence that this Money will pass as Gold & Silver and therefore direct you not to exceed upon any account the Gold & Silver Price & keeping nearly as you well can to the Prices fixed by us in our first Instructions.

* See page 272, 273.

You will soon find Persons purchasing Articles in the Quarter Masters Department with this Money—we wish you to wait the Effect of these Purchases & observe the Temper of the People with Respect to this Money when we flatter ourselves you will soon find all your apprehended Difficulties cease. I am also to inform you that the Proceedings of the House of Assembly fixing the Money at 40 for one have not been carried into a Law but are rescinded. And as we have now no Occasion to press the Money, we would have you tender it without expressing any Anxiety or Earnestness thereupon.

I am Sir,
Your Obed.
Hble Servt.,

Major Robert Cluggage to Col. John Piper, 1780.

Huntingdon, May the 30th, 1780.

Sr,

I make free to Write you Concerning the difficulty of the Times in those parts at Present which ought to be the Concearn of Every good man. A party of men from Cumberland and from those parts was Marched out to Wayley the Gaps of the aligenia Mountain Before we arived from your house when they went to the new gap above Frankstown the Found that a small party of the Enemy had Returned that Rout sume days Before the got there and had Taken with them a number of horses, yet still we supposed a part of the Enemy to be left behind which we have found to be true by the Discovery of William Phelaps. Last Friday where he had a Noble Chance of twoo indians Near the Threespring's at Aughweek had it not been for one of his Children that was with him which he was Doubtfull wd have Falen into there hands if he had a fired on them, he Emadiatly Alarmed the Neighbours the Raised a party and pursued them for sume Miles Came to their Fire where the had Roasted a turkey and was just gon the indeans seamed to hed towards Pregmor's mil when the party Lost thire Tracks a Discovery has be made lately at Captn Simontons, from those Discoverys we may draw this Conclution those are spys a makeing a proper Discovery of the Contery and when Reinforced I am doubtfull will Make a Heavy stroak if not timely prevented Comberland County have showed a deal of spirit on This Last Ocation to do Every thing in their power they ar. willing to keep out a scout Constant and Run there Chance for pay if the could be found in provitions Squre Brown proposes to find Flower Salt and Whiskey there is Nothing but Meet a Wanting, the People of this place ar much Dissatisfyed about the Stoars Being

Moved the purtest against Leting them go, what the Consequence will be I Canot tell as the party is not as yet arived. Mr Gil Breath and his party have Extraordinary hard Duty on acount of Guarding thir Provitions such a Distance and haveing only 4 pack horses I think that by applying to Mr Smith, the might be some horses procured, sume Baggs is Likewise much a wanting, if the cannot be procured in that Line I think you wd be Safe in giving orders to hire sume for one trip or twoo. I am informed that there are some Beef Catle at Bedford I think twoo or three Drove Down by this Guard that is going up wd Save a grait deal of Trouble, I hope that post in Sinking Valley may be Defended as it is of Essential service in case men should wayley the Gaps of the aligenia as it is handy for the men to Receive sume assistance from I hope you will not Fail in doeing Every thing in your power as the times is Despert I think it will be Justifiable Before god and man to Take dispert measures, I think it wd not be a mis to send down sume money to sume Carefull person to be laid out for meet or flower in Case of Needeasiety pray spare no pains in haveing an Express sent to Philadelphia with a full acd of the State of this County. I have Directed sixteen men of a guard for Huntingdon which is to do proper Duty as inlisted troops and in Case of Misbehaveing to be punished as the same I hope the will have your approbation, any orders you send, send it in Writeing and keep a Copy of the same. Every thing that is in my power to assist you in at this Critical time is at your service.

I Remain your Friend and well wisher,

ROBT. CLUGAGE.

N. B. I Drew out Captns Johnsons and Clugages pay Rolls for there time of Service and was obliged to mentions Sumes to Satisfy them as the intend to have them Judged at the Next Coart. I Took Recpt on the Back of there pay Rolls for the Money Payed.

R. C.*

Directed,

On Public Business, To Colnl John Piper, Ltn. B. C.
℔ Express.

* Rec'd in letter of Col. Piper of June 8.

Pres. Reed to Assembly, 1780.

Sir,

The very interesting & important Intelligence contained in the inclosed Papers added to the critical situation of the Honl. House which would otherwise have finished its Session immediately, induce me to lay them before you without Delay, not having communicated them yet to the Council. You will therefore be pleased to direct your Clerk to return them to me as soon as the House shall be sufficiently possessed of the Contents I submit to the wisdom of the House how far it will be proper they should be read with open Doors, & would beg Leave to express my Wish that they might on the first reading be communicated to the Members only, after which the House will exercise its own Judgement on the Occasion.

I am Sir,
with great Respect & Regard,
Your most Obed. & very Hble. Servt.
JOS. REED, President.

Market Street, May 31, 1780.

Directed,
The Hon The Speaker of the House of Assy.

Alex. McClean to Thomas Scott, 1780.

Redstone, May 31st, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Adams was with me the other day who seems greatly concerned about the progress of the new state, he informs me that a number of the persons over the River who had signed the Petitions in your hands have been prevailed upon to vote for a new State and he informs me that there is to be a meeting at Collo. Cooks the 25th if I mistake not of June in order to take the Sense of the people largely. Woe unto the Virginia lawers for they have (I believe) taken away the key of Knowledge and are never like to return again themselves. They have so blinded the Western world that they will not see, they are become so obstinate that nothing less than a new State can come under consideration. I hope they will at last consider it properly. Mr. Adams was to have wrote largely but this opportunity could not be made to suit us both.

Mr. Power was here two days ago at which time your Family were in usual health as far as he knew, we have had a very dry

season so far, the worms have been destructive to flax &c, but I think this morning will find them other employ Viz. swimming.

God Bless you, farewell,

ALEXANDER McCLEAN.

Directed,

To Thomas Scott Esqr. Member of the Counl. at Philada.

To be forwarded by Archd. McClean Esq., to Mr. Jno. Smith of York Town.

Committee of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Wednesday, May 31, 1 o'clock P. M.

Sir,

We beg leave to inform your Excellency that Congress have appointed a Committee to confer with a Committee of the Supreme executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on a letter just received from the Commander in Chief of the Army of these United States respecting Recruits & Supplies. The Committee of Congress are ready to confer at such time & place as the Committee of the Council and Assembly shall appoint.

We are with the greatest Respect.

Your Excellency,

most obed. humbl Servants,

OLIV. ELLSWORTH,
JOHN ARMSTRONG,
JAS. DUANE.*

Directed,

His Excellency the President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 370.

Wm. McMullen, Agent, to Council, 1780.

To his Excelleney Joseph Reed, Esqr, and the Supream Executive Council of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

On searching Records it is found that Thomas Gordon, by the Will of his Father, is entitled to ¼ part of 140 Acres of Land in Oxford Township, adjoining Land of Lyndford Lardner, Dec^d, on the South West, John Wood on the North West, William McMurtrie & Bryan Wilkinson on the North East, & the River Delaware on the East.

The above Thomas Gordon joined the Enemy in Philadelphia, & entered on Board the Roe-Buck, in which ship he sailed from hence, & hath not returned.

There is an information lodged of a Tract of Land in Blockley Township, said to be the Property of Marsh, containing about 100 Acres, bounded South by Land of Jenkins & Sandham, East by Mitchell's Land, North West by Isaac Warner, and South West by J. Supplee, Isaac Kite & J. Blankney.

It also appears that a number of People are cutting & destroying the Timber from off this place.

I request to know how to proceed in these Cases,

& am Your Excellency's

& Honor's Humble Servant,

WILLM. McMULLIN, Ag^t.

Philad^a, June 1st, 1780.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, & The Supream Executive Council.

Col. A. Lochrey to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Twelve Mile Run, (West of Ligonier,) June 1st, 1780.

May it please your Excellency,

In duty to my Country I find it absolutely necessary to hire a Gentleman in this County at a very high Expence to lay the distressed situation of this County before your Excellency and the Hon'ble Council.—Since Mr. Sloan, our representative, left this County, we have had three parties of the Savages amongst us—they have killed and taken five persons two miles from Ligonier, and burned a Mill belonging to one Laughlin.—They killed two men and wounded one near Brushey Run.—They likewise killed two

men on Braddock's Road near Brush Creek.—Their striking us again in so many different parts of the County as again drove the greatest part of the County on the north of Yohogeny River into Garrison.

Col° Brodhead called on me to Fort Pitt to confer on measures for the protection of the Frontiers. I am sorry to inform your Excellency that he is able to give very little assistance to our settlements from the Continental troops, altho' I am certain he will do every thing in his power. He requested me to call out sixty Rank and file of the militia of this County to cover our Frontiers and station them at posts we then agreed on. I consulted the principal officers of this County on this subject—it was generally thought that men for that purpose could not be got by Draughting Militia, as ranging Companies require young active Men. We fell on this method of raising that Complement of men for six months. The County in general have subscribed very liberal to make their pay considerable, and I am happy in informing your Excellency that I have got forty of the men out to their stations, (agreed to with Col° Brodhead,) and expect in a short time to have the remainder.

I am likewise under the necessity of applying for five or six hundred Weight of Powder, or what your Excellency may judge necessary, and the same quantity of Lead, as I have near four hundred Weight of the last article in store, and a quantity of Flints will likewise be wanted.

Your Excellency may perhaps think there is too large a quantity of Ammunition expended in this County, but as there is scarce any such thing to be purchased here, and every man on the Frontiers obliged to carry their Arms even at the plough, and being still obliged to keep their Arms in the best order; it consumes a large quantity of ammunition. Besides I have furnished the militia called into actual Service with our State's ammunition, which the Continent is charged with. I received 200 lbs. Powder, and a proportion of Lead from Col° Hays of the ammunition he brought for the Use of this County, which I had to pass my receipt for. Since the hostilities commenced this Spring I sent for more, and I am sorry to inform your Excellency that I received but six pounds, and was informed by him that a large quantity of it was damaged in the carriage over the mountains, so that at this time I think we have not 20 lbs. of good powder in the County of public property.

I received a packet with proclamations offering a large premium for Indian Prisoners, Scalps, or Tories in arms with them; I hope the reward offered will answer a good End, as a number of people seem determined to exert themselves that way, for which reason the ammunition now applied for will be the more wanted.

I am determined to spend two months this fall in the Enemies' Country with your Excellency's approbation, for which I will be very thankful. What volunteers I raise for that purpose will be of no expence to the state farther than what ammunition is expended.

I have been under the necessity of removing the Public Records of the County from Hannastown to my own plantation on the twelve mile Run—not without consulting the Judge of the Court, who was of opinion it would be no prejudice to the Inhabitants. My principal reason for moving them was, I did not think them safe as the place is but weak, and is now a real Frontier.

I am informed that some designing and self-interested persons about Hannastown have formed a petition against me to your Excellency and the Honorable Council, and have carried it about in a clandestine and private manner. If any such petition should come before Council I most humbly request that a Copy may be transmitted to me, as I apprehend there is names signed to it that never saw it, or at least did not know what they signed.

I have the honor to be
your Excellency's most obedient
and most humble servant,

A. LOCHREY, C. L.*

Directed,

To His Excellency The President in Council.

Col. John Proctor to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Westmoreland, June 1st, 1780.

Sir,

I received your Excellency's favor Dated April ye 29th,† it givues me greate concearin to hear that the money necery to rais the companies could not be collected & That the countyes of Lancastor York & Cumborland are so Delinquent, the being the three countys in the greatest safety of aney in this State, I am well ashured of your anciety to relivue the frontears. I havue the Hiest oppinion of your Excelencys' Proclamation if small Partyes would turin out, I am in hopes there will sum be in redynes in fue Dayes for that Purpose, the Enemy has made several strokes latly on our frontiers and has kild sevoral Persons & Captavoted several men wimen & children, we are in a deplorable situation, we havue not six rounds of Powdor a man in this part of the country, the People in the fronteers are determined to stand as long as Possable, still Expecting that every thing Possible will be Don for them.

* See answer June 12.
† See page 161.

I havue the Pleashor to inform you that we havue had parfict Quietnes from Virginia, the have laid several new Plans for new Desputs but the People being so oftin Desaved by them will not fall in with them, and the seem know at their wits end I have maid several new frends to pennsylvania, by teling the People in the Desputed Part that the Comisionors only want'd to fill there own Pockets with money whitch is tackin from the Poor unjustly, and that Pennsylvania will not pay aney regard to aney thing Don by them.

I am, Sir,

Your Exelency's

Most obedant Humble Servant,

JOHN PROCTOR.

Directed,

On Publick Service.

To His Excelancy, Joseph Reed, President, Philadelphia.

Indorsed,

Westmoreland, June 1st, 1780, from Col. Proctor, of Westmoreland.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, June 1st, 1780.

Resolved, That the Supplies which any of the States shall, upon requisition for that purpose, furnish of articles not required from them by the resolution of the 25th day of Feb'y last, or to a greater amount than is required by the said resolution, shall be credited to them in a future requisition of specific supplies from the several States, or in lieu of the like value of other articles which such States are already called on to furnish, or, at the election of the State, shall be paid for with interest at six per cent., as fast as money can be procured for that purpose.

Extract from the minutes,

CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 378.

Samuel Rea to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Mountbethel, June 1st, 1780.

May it please your Excellency,

Herewith I send to your Excellency a list of the Officers Chosen in the several Batalions of Millitia of this County, including the Lieut. Colonels, Majors, Captains, and Lieut. Ensigns, having an Expected safe Opportunity by the Hon'ble Mr. Orndt. You may please to observe that I have been Obliged with the concurence of the Sub-Lieutenants to nominate three Officers in the second Battallion, the Inhabitants having neglected to Choose any in that quarter. Those we have nominated from the best information we could obtain are well affected.

Since my last of the 20th ult.,* I have received an answer from Lt. Colonel Kern, by which return I find he hath at and near Fort Allen 112 Men Stationed, and having lately received information that a party of Indians has been seen skulking up Delaware, and knowing those parts to be unguarded. Notwithstanding, I have used my best endeavors to have sent relief to the Townships of Smithfield & Delaware, I have by express ordered one half of Colonel Kern's men to March to those parts & to be under the direction of Lieut. Chambers, untill farther Orders, which I hope your Excellency and Council may approve. Since the Clerk was sent for to transcribe the return of the Officers, I amu nhappily seized with the Pleuresy and acute pains of that dangerous malady & continual Fever & Pain in my Head, I shall be under the disagreeable necessity to omit giving your Excellency as full and minute relation of affairs I could have wished at this Time, tho' at the same time that I harbour a very good opinion of the Officers lately chosen of every rank in general, and hope they answer the Purpose of their several Stations.

I am your most obedient

Humble Servant,

SAMUEL REA, Col.

P. S. As a proper person will be wanted as Paymaster of the Millitia for this County, I do recommend to Council Mr. John Hays of Allenstown, & John McTerren, of Mountbethel, as suitable persons.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

☞ Favor of the Hon. John Orndt, Esqr.

* See p. 259.

George Mason to Major Bell, 1780.

Neighbour Bell,

I have maturely considered thy request, and hope no offence will be taken at my Refusal to saw the Timber to Rebuild thy House, when I have given the following reasons:

First. Because it will interfere with my other business.

Secondly. Because that House hath been kept like a Shambles, to sell the Property of Peaceable People at, & very often at a price inadequate to its real worth.

Because that House afforded Entertainment and Protection to a set of Men, whose Intentions, (Manifested by their Conduct) was to Enrich themselves by the Oppression of Others.

Because they who afford them Entertainment, & sell them Liquor are paid for it with Money unjustly Gained, which I should not wish to Receive for Property or Work of Mine, &

Because it is Probable that House when Rebuilt, will be Occupied as formerly, for which reasons I shall Decline doing any thing myself, or Renting this Mill for that purpose.

Signed,

GEORGE MASON.

A True Copy.

Indorsed,

June 1st, 1780.

Pres. Reed to Commissioners of Supplies, 1780.

In Council,

Philad^a, June 1, 1780.

Sir,

The Continental Army, upon which our Prospects of Safety & Liberty so much depend, have, by various Disappointments been reduced to great Distress for want of Provisions; & the Assembly, being duly informed of all Circumstances, have passed the inclosed Law the Execution of which with all possible Expedition is, in our present Circumstances, a Matter of the most indispensable Necessity. We have therefore, from the Confidence we repose in you on this occasion, appointed you one of the Commissioners for this Purpose. It is not expected that this will be a matter of any Continuance, but merely as a present supply for a few weeks. As our Distress on this Occasion is too well known to make it necessary to use Concealment, we are sorry to inform you that the Troops have been for

Days together without Meat, that the Discontents arising therefrom have been carried to an alarming Height, & that there has been no Time nor Occasion when the Exertions of every good Man & sincere Friend to his Country were more necessary, or would redound more to his own Credit. Besides the Law, you will receive a Parcel of blank Certificates to be given to such Persons as you procure Cattle or Sheep from—any Person bringing you the Number ment'd in the Sect. of the Law will be entitled to an Order on us, which we shall endeavour punctually to answer. As the Necessity admits of no temporizing with disaffected or neutral Characters, we also hope you will put the law fully in force against them, when you find them possessed of Cattle or Sheep, & refuse to part with them. In all which, besides the support you will derive from the Law, you may rely upon our Direction, Advice & Aid on every Occasion. We flatter ourselves, that in less than 6 Weeks the Duty will cease; but we have it much at Heart to shew the Spirit & Zeal of this State on so critical an Occasion. Your services will be honourably compensated, as well as necessary Expenses of sub-Purchasers & Drivers, of which you will keep as regular an Account as may be. In delivering Certificates, you will be careful to keep one sett of Numbers as a Check & enter the name of the Person & the Sum in a Book of every Certificate given.

The Cattle and Sheep, when procured, are to be driven to the Commissary Gen. of Purchases in this Place, or his nearest Deputy, from whom you will take Receipts, in such a manner as to avoid future Disputes. Economy & Frugality are also to be attended to, & as it has been observed that Advantage has been taken of these Exigencies, so as to occasion an immediate Accumulation of Iron, we hope the Reproach will not now be made, but that Care & Prudence will be used in this as at other Parts of the Duty. The Nature of the Business & Necessity of the Case will not admit your declining the Service, or delaying the Execution a single Day, as there is no other Chance of preventing the Misfortunes apprehended but an immediate Supply from Pennsylvania.

I am Sir,

Your Obbed. Hbble. Sev.

To ———, Esq. Commiss. for procuring supplies for the Army.

Col. Tho's. Edwards to Christopher Kucher, 1780.

Lebanon, June 1st. 1780.

Dear Sr,

Capt. Moore has resigned, and of Capt. Immels District I cannot procure a return, Immel wont Serve and Capt Wendle Weaver who was appointed in his room likewise declines Serving, this prevents me from sending you a return of the Officers of the Battalion in order

to have commissions made out for them. I am afraid we are in a fair way of getting in confusion. Capt. Weiser attempted to collect Fines for Non Attendance of Exercise but received Ill Treatment and Blows in lieu of Money, and declares that he will not attempt to lift the Fines unless he be properly Assisted, which I hope you will cause to be done, for you heard my short harangue to the People on the Fields, and my assurance of having the Fines regularly Collected, now should this not be done I cannot possable Serve, and shew my Face to the People with any Credit. You are well Convinced of my readiness to serve my Country to the best in my power, but nevertheless would wish to do it in such a manner as will give Honor to myself, and such who were pleased to appoint me.

I remain Sr. with due regard,

Your Humble Servt

THO'S. EDWARDS Col.

Directed,—The Honorable Christopher Kucher, Esq., Philadelphia favored ☞ Mr. Forsyth.

Christopher Kucher to Pres. Reed, 1780.

The Trapp on my Road home, June 2d. 1780.

Honoble Sir,

I this moment have Received the Inclosed Letter from Col. Thomas Edwards of the Second Battalion of our County. I Need Not say further on the subject than what the Letter will Convey which I Think (if Right) there should be some mode fell upon by Council to set apart as many of the Militia for the purpose of supporting those men appointed to Collect fines from (Non attendants) as would Effectually suport the Laws and at same time convince the Refractory part that they are to submit to those Laws. I most sincerely Lament that this is the Case, and most sincerely Beg pardon if any thing herein Contained should Convey an Idea that I would in any wise Dictate to your Excellency.

I am Hon'ble Sir,

your most ob't. Hum'l.

CHRISTOPHER KUCHER, S. L. L. C.

P. S. Please to Give me Your answer to the above by the first Possible opportunity.

Publick Service.

Directed,—To his Excellency Joseph Reed president of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, favored by Mr. John Forsyth.

* Col. Rec. Vol. XII. p. 392.

Pres. Reed to Col. A. Lochry, 1780.

Sir,

You will receive herewith £10,000, for the supply & service of your County. It is in the first Case to be employed in recruiting the Company of Rangers agreeable to the inclosed Instructions, and should there be any particular Exigence you must use it with Discretion & Judgment ever remembering that Money has now a fixed Value & that there is an Attention to Expenditure which has not been observed heretofore. One Commission in the Rangers Company is sent up blank to which you will appoint some suitable Person as Ensign of the Company. You will observe by the Papers which we send by Mr. Sloan that your Affairs & Situation have engrossed much of our Time. We request you to lose no Time in getting the Militia in Order & co-operate with your Friends in this Quarter. We have sent you a Parcel of blank Commissions which you are to fill up with the Names of the Field Officers & as many of the Captains as there are Commissions for. We have already loaded Mr. Sloan so as that we could not send any more Commissions but they will be forwarded as soon as may be. Mr. Amberson the Commissioner must endeavour to subsist the Company of Rangers & draw upon us. We hope he will consult you & that you will study Economy as much as possible, the People in these lower Counties being so heavily taxed that it is necessary to convince them that Justice, Care & Prudence will be exercised.

I am Sir,
Your Obed. Hble Serv.*

Indorsed.—June 2, 1780.

Instructions to Recruiting Officers, 1780.

Sir,

Herewith you will receive a Commission as Captain of a company of Rangers in the service of this State, which company is to consist of,

One Captain,	One Lieutenant,
One Ensign,	four Serjeants,
Four Corporals,	One Drummer,
One Fifer,	and Sixty Privates.

In recruiting the said company, you are to enlist none but able

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 372.

bodied Men, free from lameness, ruptures, and other disorders, which may disable them from doing active duty.

First. You are to enlist them to serve until 15th Jany next, unless sooner discharged by the Supreme Executive Council, under whose orders and direction they are to be, during service.

And as an encouragement for your self and the Officers to enter into the said service, and the Men to enlist—the Officers will be entitled to receive from the State, seventy five dollars levy money, for every able bodied recruit, who shall pass muster, to be paid to the Officer enlisting him.

To every non Commissioned Officer and Soldier who shall enlist in the said service, two hundred dollars bounty—Two hundred upon enlistment and three hundred when he shall pass Muster.

Every Recruit is to take the following oath, upon his enlistment and passing Muster viz.

I, A. B. having been duly enlisted in the Service of the State of Pennsylvania in the company of Rangers commanded by Captain do promise to be true and faithfull to the said State, agreeable to the terms of my enlistment and to be obedient to my Superior Officers

So help me God.

The Lieutenant of the County of Westmorland is hereby authorized to muster the said Recruits, and is not to admit any under eighteen, or above fifty years of age, able of body, and at least five feet six inches high. Every recruit is to sign an enlistment, in a book to be kept by the Lieutenant, specifying the terms and time of his enlistment, which book he is to keep carefully, to prevent future mistakes or imposition.

You are to be specially careful, not to enlist any deserters from the Continental army or prisoners of War, and if any Officers shall enlist any recruit contrary to these instructions he shall be charged with the whole expence thereon arising.

You are from time to time, to make reports of your proceedings to the President and Council, with the State of your Company—and unless in case of special orders from them, you are to obey the Lieutenant of the County in the disposition of your corps when duly formed.

Indorsed,

June 2, 1780.

Circular—Genl. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Pennsylvania, Head Quarters, Morris Town, June 2d, 1780.

Circular,

Sir,

By a letter from The Honourable The Committee of Congress at Morris Town, which this accompanies, your Excellency will find, that those Gentlemen and myself, after maturely considering the matter, deem it essential to the success of the measures in contemplation to be carried on against the enemy—to call on the States for certain aids of Militia, in addition to the requisitions for men already made, and that they should be at places of rendezvous appointed by me, by the fifteenth day of next month. The aid requested, in this instance, of your State is founded on a principle of apportionment common to all the States from New Hampshire to Maryland—inclusive (the others on account of their distance and the operations in the Southern Quarter not being now called on) and is stated at, Three thousand, four hundred and sixty five rank and file. This number of Militia *well armed*, and equipped in every other respect for the field in the best manner circumstances will admit, under proper officers, I wish to be at Easton and Trenton, at the time mentioned by the Committee which appears to be a suitable place for their rendezvousing in the first instance, and from whence they will proceed on my orders as occasion may require. It will also be material, on account of disciplining and organizing the men, as well as on account of public œconomy—that they should be formed into full regiments. If this is not done, it will render our arrangements extremely difficult and irregular, and will add by greatly increasing the number of officers, very considerable to the public expense.—I would beg leave to observe, that I think the whole number of Militia requested from your State should be comprized in Seven Regiments. This additional aid will not, I trust, and earnestly entreat impede in the smallest degree, the filling up the Regiments of the State by draft to their full complement as requested by The Honourable The Committee in their letters of the 25th ulto. This is a point of such vast importance so absolutely essential to give the least prospect of success to our operations—and indeed on which they depend, that I could not forbear mentioning it. If the Regiments are completed by drafts—it is possible our demands for Militia may be a good deal diminished; but this must be governed by events; and therefore for objects so very interesting—so important as those are to which we at present look, we should provide whatever may be possibly requisite.

I have the honor to be

With great respect and esteem,

yr. Excellency's Most obedient hum. Serv.

G° WASHINGTON.

Directed,—His Excellency Gov. Reed.

COMMEE. OF CONGRESS TO PRES REED, 1780.

Pennsylvania.

In Committee of Congress Morris Town 2 June 1780.

In a letter of the 31st ulto, from the Commander in Chief, which we had the honor to receive on the same day, His Excellency observed. "That in the expected co-operation with the force of "our Ally, against that of the Common Enemy, it is of great "moment that we should proceed with circumspection and on the "surest ground. Before we can determine what ought to be under-"taken, we should be able to appreciate the means we shall have it "in our power to employ, on some precise scale. To begin an "Enterprise against any point in possession of the Enemy, on a "general presumption of sufficient resources in the County, and pro-"portionable exertions in the respective Governments to bring them "forth, would hardly be justified by success—could never be defen-"ded in case of misfortunes, to say nothing of the fatal consequences "that might ensue. It appears to me necessary to assertain the "number of men, and the quantity of supplies which the States are "capable of furnishing in *a given time*, and to *obtain assurances* "from them, founded on experience of their continuing supplies in "the same proportion. I esteem the plan adopted by the Com-"mittee in their circular Letter, an extremely good preparatory "one: but I think it of *indispensable importance*, in the next place "to come to something fixed and determined. I therefore take the "liberty to submit to the Committee, the necessity and propriety "of calling immediately upon the States, for *specific aids of men*, "*provisions, forage*, and the means of transportation."

His Excellency next states the Enemy's number and position, mentions the points against which combined Armes will probably be directed, and furnishes us with an estimate of the force which America ought to draw into the field, with others exhibiting a state of the provisions, horses, Carriages, and a variety of other Articles indispensably necessary to give vigor and a probable prospect of success to our operations. Duty and inclination equally impelled us to a conference with the General, and to the most serious consideration of the subject. The result was a determination specifically to apportion to, and request from the States referred to in the Resolution of Congress of the 19th ulto., to furnish the requisit supplies by the first day of July. In estimating those we have paid all possible regard to the probable resources of each, and to their relative position to those scenes of operation, which are at present in contemplation. We shall accordingly annex the kind and quantum of supplies which are monthly expected from your State, and we have to entreat that you will fully comply with the requisition we have the honor to make, and that they will be kept up in the same

proportion until the last of November, if necessity should induce us to continue the application to that period, even although any of the Articles now called for, should exceed the quota assigned you by the act of Congress of the 25th of Febuary last, and you will please Sir, to signify to us, without delay, the determination of your State on this important subject.

Here it becomes our duty to advise you as upon examination you will perceive that we have stated your quota ⅌ month, in some Articles beyond what it would have been, could we have strictly adhered to the proportion on which the allotments made by the act of the 25th Febuary last, were adjusted, but this was found impracticable because of the exhausted condition of some of the States, in which the Army and its principal Detatchment have wintered. But as those in the Course of the Campaign will be enabled to afford more than they can at present, your quota as now stated, will of course diminish. The requisition, Sir, is large but it is bearly competent. It is the last adequate to the intended operations, as it is calculated on the most limited expenditures without the smallest allowance for accidentally losses, or extra consumption.

Having given the States, a fixed point to regulate themselves by, their measures will be equal to it, and their exertions competent to the magnitude of the object. In matters of such high import it appeared to the General and to us essentially that there should be a proper understanding on all hands. That the States should know the wants of the army, and what is expected for it. That the General & the Committee should be already and explicitly advised of their abilities, both individually and collectively, and to have determined with precision, what may be expected. We do not fear to discourage by the largeness of the demand, as we conceive it impossible they should not bear with the knowledge of the wants of their Army, and because knowing them, we are persuaded their wisdom and patriotism, will impel them to every exertion fully to afford the supplies.

The supplies alloted to be furnished by your State are 5000 Barrels of Flour per month, 1000 Barrels of which to be delivered at Easton 1000 barrels at Coryels Ferry and the Remainder at Trentown; 166, 835 pounds of beef or pork per month to be delivered in Philadelphia with 80,000 pounds of bacon in three equal parcels monthly to the last of September, 225 Hogshead of Rum per month delivered at the army, 9142 Bushells of Grain for forage per month, 1500 of which to be delivered at Easton, 1500 at Coryels Ferry & the remainder at Trentown, 250 Waggons with harness compleat & with four Horses to Each, and 1500 Horses without harness, all these to be attached to the army and to be delivered where the quarter Master General shall direct and on or before the first day of July next; The first monthly quota of supplies to be delivered by the first day of July next, and the subsequent ones monthly *within* the months succeeding, as the quarter master or Commissary General

may direct. The Beef, Bacon, Horses, and Waggons are additional articles to those stated in the act of Congress of the 25 of February last but the requisition on your state as an others, for Extra supplies could not be dispensed with and the amount thereof together with the transportation of any, must be charged in account with the United States. We believe it would be advantageous to the States in general that the Horses and Waggons should be procured by hire in preference to purchase, as the Drivers, who will then accompany them, will be more careful of the Cattle. Should your State adopt that mode, we recommend that the Contracts may be made payable in specie or paper money equivalent, and that the value of the Horses & Waggons should be appraised on oath and a return made of the appraisement to the Quarter master General.

As the Object against which the military operations will be directed, cannot be positively ascertained, we have it not in our power to call on you for a determinate quantum of transportation but believe it will be considerable and probably amount to 150 Waggons, to be constantly employed for 90 days.*

The Continental Troops already engaged and with the army, together with the addition requested by the Generals Letter of the 25th ulto to compleat the Battallions to 504 rank & file, will still in his opinion and in our own be adequate to ensure success in intended operations. In our Circular Letter of the 25th ulto we intreated your Legislature to adopt measures for drawing forth your Militia on the shortest notice we have now to request that such arrangements may be made as that your quota of militia which with the concurrence of the Commander in Chief we state at 3465 rank & file shall rendezvous at the Army or at such posts and places as the General shall direct, by the fifteenth day of July next at farthest, and to continue in service for the term of three months computing from the day of their arrival at such Rendezvous as aforesaid.

Such of the supplies herein required as make part of the quota assigned to your State by the act of Congress of the 25th of February last and which it is requested you will transport to and deliver where the Quarter Master or Commissary Genl shall direct will be receipted for by the Continental Officers appointed for that purpose before either they or your Agents convey or transport the same beyond the Limits of your State. If However such Continental Officers should not be present, you will give directions that the weight or quantity of the articles may be estimated and an account or Invoice transmitted with each parcel. We have to observe that in the beef requested, hides and tallow are not included, allowance must therefore be made for these when Cattle are sent to the Army. If drivers are

* "Circular from hence except as to the number of militia requested from Each state."

sent with the draft horses and Cattle required of your State, we wish to have one for every four horses and Oxen.

We have the Honor to be with
great Respect & Esteem Your Excellency's
most Obedient Humble Servants
PH SCHUYLER,
JNO MATHEWS,
NATHL PEABODY.*

P. S. We do most earnestly intreat that the requisition now made on your State for the quota of militia, may not be suffered on any consideration whatever to retard the completion of the Continental Battallions, as recommended in our second circular Letter of the 25 ulto. The necessity of that measure becoming daily more striking and important.

Directed,
His Excellency the President of the State of Pennsylvania
Indorsed,
June 8th, 1780.

Jehu Roberts to Pres. Reed, 1780.

To the President & Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

The Petition of Jehu Roberts on behalf of himself & seven sisters.

Respectfully sheweth,

That the Family having presented a Petition to the House of Assembly in November last,† praying the Restoration of the Estate of John Roberts, deceased, & the Assembly not having yet come to any result in the matter, the Petitioner on behalf of himself, his Mother & seven Sisters, begs of the Council that they will be pleased to direct the Suspension of the Sale untill the next meeting of the House. That Thomas Roberts, eldest Brother of the Petitioner having received part of the said Estate, by a Decree of the Court, he does not propose to make application for a Share of the Residue. That a Petition to the House was prepared, praying a Revival of the Matter, but their sudden Adjournment prevented its Delivery.

JEHU ROBERTS.‡

Philada., June 3rd, 1780.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 880.
† See Vol. VII., p. 122.
‡ Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 874—it was rejected.

Col. John Piper to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Bedford, June 3, 1780.

Sir,

I am honoured with the Packet and cash from Council by Major Cluggage, I sent the Recruiting Instructions to Capt. Burd but I am sorry to inform Council that He sent Me his Resignation, the Situation of His affairs being sutch that he cannot Possably Serve. I mentioned in My Last by Gennerall St Clair, that the Indians Had Made an Incurtion into this county, which to our misfortune is More Generall than I at that time supposed, there Being upwards of twenty People Killed and taken, the consequence is that the Settlements adjacent to where the Murders were Done is Abandoned, the Militia turned out but for want of Provisions they could not follow the Enemy far, I have Done Every thing in My Power to Procure some, and thinking My self justifiable by the necessity of the case and warranted by the Letter I had the Honour to receive from Council, I have aplyed Part of the Money I Receved and shall be oblidged to apply More towards Procuring Provisions. Spies or at Least those who are Suspected to be spies, have Been Discovered in Diffrant Parts, and we Have Every Reason to Dread the full of the next Moon will be fattall to us, without speedy and vigoras assistance we cannot stand our ground, Excuse My urgancy upon this occasion when our all is Depending, I cannot forbear being urgant.

I understood by Major Cluggage that Charles Cesna was apointed Purchaser for this County. I immediately wrote to Him, and Have Rode to His House upon the occasion, But He has heard nothing of the apointmt, I would Have him go down but he could not think of Leaving his family upon sutch an uncertainty, but asured Me that if his apointment came up He would Do Every thing in his Power, it Might be of considerable Service to us upon this occasion if the Person who is nominated was enabled speedily to act, as our Greatest Demand at present seems to be for flour and Horses to transport the flour and other necessarys to the fronteer Posts, in Hopes of a speedy answer I have the Honor to be with all Due Respect your Excellencys most

obedient and verry Humble Servt

JOHN PIPER.

Please turn to Postcript.

P. S. Inclosed I send you a Letter I Recevd from Major Cluggage, which will Be a Coroborating Sircumstance that our fears are not groundless, if Council would Pleas to grant Me an order to Draw a further suply of Amunition if necessity should Require it, I had and allways shall be as Moderate in My Demands as Possable, but our

Situation Requires that there should always be a quantity in Store, I am as Before, yours &c.

J. P.

Directed,
On Publik Service.
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President in Council, Pensylvania.
Pr favor of
Mr. Barclay.

C. J. M'Kean to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, June 3, 1780.

Sir,

Amongst the records of the convictions and attainders of the capital offences in the county of Cumberland, your Excellency and the Council will find one or two of William Richardson.* He was convicted upon his own confession, which was obtained from him by a certain John Vance under promises of favor, &c. It is believed he discovered every thing he knew, and that he never had more than three counterfeit Bills, two of which he passed to James Clark and Martha Brown, and which was known only by his own declaration, as they did not appear to prosecute him. He also seemed a weak young man, drawn in by one John Rosenborough late in the last Winter, and from other circumstances a proper object of mercy. I beg leave to recommend him accordingly to your Excellency and the Council for a pardon.

Margaret Mathews† was convicted of a Burglary committed when inebriated, and found in the Store she had broke. Her example will be of little consequence any how, as I apprehend; but as she is recommended to your Excellency and the Council for a pardon by all the Gentlemen and other Inhabitants of Carlisle, and also by the Ladies of General Irwine, Mr. Stevenson, Colo. Davis, &c., I am induced to join in the request.

Negro Sukey‡ pleaded before judgment was pronounced, that she was pregnant of a *quick* child, but as enseinture is no cause to stay Judgment, she was sentenced to die; however as it is a good cause to stay execution, and as we were informed by the Sheriff and others that it was the fact, we thought it advisable to reprieve her until next sessions of Oyer & Terminer and General Goal Delivery for

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 875, 876, 877.
† Ib. 877. ‡ Id. 890.

Cumberland county, without the formality and expence of an inquiry by twelve Women; Mr. Bard informs he has omitted making this Entry on her Record; I beg therefore it may be returned for this purpose.

I am with the most perfect esteem,

your Excellency's & the Councils

most obedient humble Servant,

THO· M'KEAN.*

Philadelphia, June 3d, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President &c. of Pennsylvania.

PRES OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Circular.

Philadelphia, June 3, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the first Instant, in addition to the resolutions of the 25th of February last; making farther Provision respecting such Supplies as any State may furnish, other than, or over & above their Quotas of Supplies required by the Act of the 25th of February.

I have the honour to be

with the greatest respect

your Excelly's obed^t hble servant,

SAM. HUNTINGTON,

President.†

Directed,

His Excell'y President Reed.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 377.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 378.

David C. Deshler to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Gentlemen,

I have been lately appointed Commissioner* of Purchases in Northampton County & have also received a sum of the last New money Struck by the house of assembly, and am very sorry to Inform you that the Farmers are very loath to take it. I have been three days out for grain, But Could get none, I think If you were to send a few advertisements up here, That the merchants in Philadelphia will take it, I believe the farmers would sooner take it for grain, I have found in one place upwards of 600 Bushels wheat & other grain, & have heard of more since. I must beg of you to send me some Cont'l. money to Purchase some Cattle for the use of the militia, which are now up at the Mountains, or lett me know who is appointed to purchase for them, as the Lieutenants of this County are dayly troubling me about Provisions, and I have none for them.

Gentlemen your advice by the Bearer
will much Oblige your most
Obedient Humble Servt.,
DAVID DESHLER,
CHARLES DESHLER.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety, Philadelphia.

Col. Danl. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you that since my last no mischief has been done to the Inhabitants, and I expect a supply of Salt Provisions from the magazines below the mountains, which will enable me to keep out Scouts, and support the Dependant Posts until the first of September.

It is near four weeks ago, since I sent a French Gentleman with speeches to the Indians, threatning them with the force of France, Spain & America, if they did not immediately desist from further hostilities. This Gentleman is in the service of the State of Virginia, he speaks several of the Indian languages to perfection, and his address is well calculated to influence them. When he returns I will write you what success attends the Messages.

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 378.

Some of the Indian nations certainly merit a total extirpation, but whilst we want the means to chastise them, it may be good policy to amuse them, as they have us, and I have directed the French Gentleman (Major Lanetot) to do it as much as in him lies.

I wish the Honble Executive Council had held out the reward for Scalps & Prisoners to the Officers, Soldiers and Friendly Indians, because I conceive it would have been a sure method to save the Friendly Indians, and to destroy some of the hostile ones, and perhaps to involve the Indians in a war against one another. But a few Indian Goods would have greater weight with the friendly Indians, than all the Continental money we can raise. Captn Brady with five white men & two Delaware Indians set out for Sandusky with a view to bring off a british Prisoner or some Indian Scalps. One of his Indians left him and returned to this place sick or cowardly. He has been out ten days and in as many more I expect him back again, if he is fortunate. I beg leave to recommend Cap^n Brady to the notice of the Hon'ble Executive Council as an excellent officer, and I sincerely wish he may not leave the service for want of the promotion he has merited, and is justly entitled to, ever since the resignation of Captain Moore.'

I had lately called out some of the militia with a view to attack some of the hostile tribes, but finding it impracticable to subsist them, I was constrained to postpone the attempt untill a sufficient supply of provisions can be obtained.

I have the Honor to be

with the most sincere respect and esteem

Dear Sir, your most Obedt. Servt.

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

To His Excellency Jos. Reed, Esqr.

NICHOLAS LUTZ TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Reading, June 5, 1780.

Sir,

I must request you would inform the Council that in consequence of their Instructions of the 27th ult., I proceeded Immediately on my Return Home to Contract for the necessary Provisions at the following Prices, Viz., Flour 30s. ℔ C^wt., Corn 5s. 6d. ℔ Bushel, Oats, 3s. 9d. ℔ Bushel, Hay 80s. ℔ Ton, Buckwheat, 4s. ℔ Bushel, (Exclusive of Carriage, Bags & Casks,) assuring the people at the same Time that the Merchants would take the new money at the

same Rate as Specie, and also that in Case higher prices were given in other Counties, they should have the same.

I thought it also proper to acquaint them that the Money would be received in Taxes at one for Forty of the present Currency, which I looked upon myself authorized to do by the late Resolves of Assembly. I also thought proper to offer for Carriage 2s. ℔ Tun, for each Mile; as also 5s. for each Bag and 3s. piece for Casks all which I conceive are the lowest prices I could get them at even for Gold or Silver.

Since the foregoing Transactions I had the Honour to receive your Letter of the 30th ult., revoking my former Instructions as to prices to be offered, and acquainting me that the House had rescinded their Resolutions for fixing the money at Forty for one.

I shall, however, proceed in the purchases in the manner already begun, as Grain is growing very Scarce, and may not be to be had and must beg the Favour of Council to inform me as soon as possible of the Prices allowed in other Counties which I am Confident will not be lower than those agreed for here. If higher I shall be obliged to make it up to the people purchased of in the County. I must also take the liberty of requesting the Council would let it be known (if proper) that the Money will be taken in Taxes at the Rate of One for Forty; as I am doubtful whether the Farmers will receive it on any other Terms.

I have the Honour to be

Your Excellency's most

Obedient Humble Servt.

NICHOLAS LUTZ.

P. S. The Articles purchased since I received the Money are 4 Tuns of Flour, 172 Bushels of Oats & 19 Bags.

Col. Jno. Piper to Pres. Reed, 1780.

June 5th, 1780.

Sir,

I would Beg Leave to Request a further supply of Amunition for the use of the Militia, and volunteers of this County. as there are a number of spirited Men, Both in this County and Cumberland, who are forming themselves into Companys to be ready upon Every ocasion to give the frontiers Every assistance Possable, and ingages to Me to raise a constant Patroling Party upon the frontiers of this County, Provided I Can support them with Provisions and amunition. As I wrote a true state of our Situation to Councill in My

Letter of the fourth Inst., I shall not Enlarge, in Hopes youl Pleas to answer My Present Dimand by this Bearer.

I am Sir, with Due Respect,

Your Excellency's Most Obedient

and very Humble Servant,

JOHN PIPER.*

On Publick Service.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, Presidant in Council, Pennsylvania.

P^r favour of M^r. William Campble.

ADAM WITMAN AND THOS. JONES TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Reading, June 5th, 1780.

Sir,

By one of the Commissioners of the County of Lancaster, one of our Board was informed that they did not Continue the double Tax on those that have not taken the Oath or Affirmation to their Returns for the Monthly Supplies. Jona. D. Serjeants, Esq., Council to us was that the double Taxes† are to be Continued, on which we have Issued our Duplicates to the Collectors, but should we act Contrary to what other Counties do, evenly, should it be the perfect meaning of the Law, we think we are not able to Support it. We therefore beg your advice thereon if Possible by this Post.

We are, Sir,

Your mo. Obt. H'ble Servt.,

ADAM WITMAN,

THOS. JONES, Junr.

P. S.—We are likewise Informed that it is discontinued in Chester County.

Directed,

Public Service.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqr., President Supreme Executive Council, Pensylvania.

* See answer, June 18.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 379.

Col. Ephraim Blaine to Christian Wirtz, 1780.

Lancaster County, June 5th, 1780.

Sir,

The Garrisons at Sunburry and Wyoming being nearly exhausted of what Flour they had, and as the supply of those places are an Object of Immediate Concern, have therefore in the most pressing Terms to request your utmost exèrtion in procuring three hundred Barrels Flour, and delivering the same into the Magazine at Estherton, in order that it may be forwarded to the above mentioned posts, while the River admits of Navigation—beg your attention to this Business in preference to any other, as the Wants of the Troops at those places will admit of no delay, and their supplies depends on your County and Cumberland. Am with Esteem, Sir,

yr most Obdt H. Servt,

EPHRAIM BLAINE, C. G. Pa.*

Christ. Wirtz, Contractr for Lanc. County.

Christian Wirtz to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

A Letter from the Council of the 30th, with yours of the 31st, I have before me, and am exceedingly pleas'd to hear that the *Credit* of the State money is increasing. I shall observe to make no further progress in laying it out untill I have Advice from Council.

The Situation of Sunbury & Wyoming for want of Flower, requiring Immediate attention, (which you will perceive by the Inclosed, being a Copy of Col. Blaine's Letter,) I Could wish how soon I could be favor'd with the prices & Rates I am to proceed in. The Success I have yet met with not being great.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,

Yr very H. Servt,

CHRIST. WIRTZ, Com. P. L. C.

Lancaster, June 6th, 1780.

Directed,

(On public Service.)

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqr, Presid. of the State of Pensylvania.

* Inclosed in C. W.'s letter, 6th June.

Augustin Willett to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

Agreeable to the order of Counsel, I have perseaded to purching of Catlle & Sheep; if theay are to go to Camp, it would be the most proper to have a person appointed to receive them at Bristol, or Newtown; I shall particular atend to your directions; a Saturday i expect to have a Number Collected to drive of.

N.B. I must request more Certificates the first Oportunity, as i am Oblidge to pick up Sheep three or four in a place, or a single bullock that is any ways meat, which oblidge me to Give a Certificate for every small Number.

Sir, I remain your Most Obedient,
humble Servant,

AUGUSTIN WILLETT.

Trevose, June y 6th, 1780.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, President of the State of Pensylvania.

per favour Gen. Wilkinson.

Col. Saml. J. Atlee to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Pequea, June 6th, 1780.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 1st, by Mr. Cunningham, has been duly received, with the blank Commission, &c. inclosed.

The necessary orders in consequence have been given for the providing and assembling the men required for the Relief of the Frontier. The officers shall be appointed as Council direct, as the men are collected.

The next step to be taken will be to see that they are properly Arm'd & Accoutred, for which purpose I believe I must myself attend in Philadelphia.

If they are to be armed with Musquetts & Bayonetts, I would wish the Cartridges to be made up with a ball & six buck shot if the musket will well chamber them; And that Council will please to order that they be immediately prepared, that the Troops may be ready at a Moments warning.

From the 76 Battalions of this State upwards of 1200 men will be procured, a number sufficient for two fine Battalions; if Council mean to Regiment them, I would beg leave to reccommend for the Command of this West Battalion, Lt. Col. James Ross, the present commanding Officer of the Battalion of Militia in Lancaster, I look upon him a Vigilent and good Officer, and acquainted with service, having bourne a¶L^ Col^ Commission in the Line of the State. He seems very desirous of serving, and doubt not he will do Honor to the State and himself.

I have the Honor to be
Sir, your's and Councills
Most ob't Hble Serv't,
SAM. J. ATLEE.

Directed,
His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of Pennsylvania.

PRES. REED TO COMMITTEE OF MERCANHTS OF PHILA., 1780.

Philad,

Gentlemen,

The spirited & patriotick Exertion made by the Gentlemen of the City which was the Subject of the Visit you favoured me with this Morning was too deserving our attention to delay a moment in acquainting you with our sentiments on the proposition you then made.

Upon considering the Progress already made under the Law, the Danger of the Country not understanding the principles upon which we departed from the strict line of the Act of Assembly, the Advantage which the mercenary & disaffected would probably endeavour to take of such Departure when the Assessment came to be laid together with the Risque of resuming the plan of the Law again if necessary. I say all these Things being considered & having advised with some Gentlemen well acquainted with the temper of the Militia we think it most advisable to proceed under the law, & when the Quota is furnished for the City we shall most heartily co-operate with the association in making such Addition of Recruits as we can & for this purpose shall procure some suitable Officers from Camp to go upon the Duty & in Behalf of the State add a suit of Cloaths to the Bounty you may think proper to offer.

I am Gentlemen,
With much Respect & Regard,
Your Obed. &
Very Hble Servt,
JOS. REED.*

Indorsed,
June 8, 1780.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 381.

Officers of Land Office to Pres. Reed, 1780.

His Excellency The President and the Honorable Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

Having examined the Land office Law which passed the last Session of Assembly, and attended particularly to those Clauses which relate to our respective offices, we with submission conceive that there are some Omissions which should be remedied previous to our entering upon busines.

We therefore beg leave to propose the following queries for the consideration of your Honorable Board praying your Opinion and Instructions thereon, & at the same time wish that your Excellency in Council would be pleased to favour us with general Instructions for our Government in office.

Sect 3d As the Receiver General was formerly paid by the Proprietaries for his Services, no Law providing him either a salary or Fees of office, should not this Law therefore particularly stipulate his Salary and Fees?

Sect 5th Does Location in this section mean only the Locations or Applications entered in the Books, & numbered and sent to the Surveyor Generals Office as was the custom on the application plan, or does it mean the bare Location or Description of Lands, left in the Secretary's office upon which no farther Proceedings were or money paid? some of such there are.

Sect 10th Does the Law empowering the President or Vice President to sign a Patent likewise enable him to sign a Warrant of Acceptance of a Survey made on Application or any other Warrant of Acceptance of Resurvey, or Petition?

Is the Receiver General empowered to return Cash to the Purchasers of Land where the quantity specified in their Warrant is deficient, or where no such Lands are to be found? And at what Exchange shall the Receiver General receive the £5 Strg ℔ cwt, at?

We have only to add that as our respective seales of Office are not yet made, we should be happy to have the Directions of Council likewise on this head.

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves,

Your most obedient Hble Servants,

JNO LUKENS S. G.
DAVID KENNEDY Secy. Ld. Off.
FRAS JOHNSTON, R. Genl

Philada., 6th June, 1780.

Samuel Morris, Jun., to President Reed, 1780.

June 9, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I shall give orders for Twenty of the Troop, properly officered, to be ready to-morrow morning, agreeable to your orders just Received. Be so good as to order us some ammunition, &c., as the Troop are Entirely without. I have not been out of my Chamber these Ten days, being Confined with the Gout, otherwise should have Waited on you on the Receipt of your orders of this morning, & now take this oppt'y to Inform you that they shall also be Complyed with.

I am, Sir,
with great Respect,
Your most obed't
H'ble Serv't'
SAML. MORRIS, Jun.

Friday Evening, June 9th, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, June 9, 1780.

Sir,

The General writes us that the Enemy are out in Force, & lie below Springfield in Jersey. What their object is remains undiscovered. He complains of the Want of Horse, & desires Major Lee's corps may be ordered on to counteract the Cavalry of the Enemy, which are very numerous. We have done ourselves the Honour of communicating this Intelligence as well for Information as to submit to your consideration the Propriety of holding the Philadel^a Light Horse in readiness to march in Case of Exigency.

We have the Honour to be,
with great Respect,
Your very obed. Servants,
RICHARD PETERS,
By order.

P. S. Genl. Washington's letter is dated from The Heights above Springfield, the 8th inst.

Directed,

Public Service.

His Excellency, President Reed, Philad^a.

Instructions of Council to Col. of City Battalions, 1780.

June 9, 1780.

Sir,

The President & Council have directed that a Detachment be made from every Company in your Battalion, under the Command of an Officer, whose duty it will be to seize the Horse or Man of every Person Resident, within this City or Districts, who does not produce a Certificate of having taken the oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to the State, Delegates in Congress, Foreign Ministers & Persons holding any office or Commission under the United States, this State, or any such Person always excepted. The Horses, when seized, to be delivered at the Continental Forage Yard in Walnut street.

I am, Sir,

Your Obed. H'ble Servt.

N. B. Care must be taken not to stop Persons coming to, or going from Market.

Instructions to Col. Wm. Henry, 1780.

Sir,

The Necessities of the service requiring that a Number of Horses be immediately sent to Camp, it has been deemed expedient to seize the Horses of the disaffected, giving them certificates, to be paid at a future day. You are, therefore, desired to call upon the Colonels of the several Regiments of Militia, to order their Captains to parade their Companies at 6 o'clock to-morrow Morning, when they will deliver to each Captain an order to the following Import: viz. To seize the Horse or Man of every Person not having taken the Oath or affirmation of allegiance & Fidelity to the State. The Horses, as taken, are to be delivered at the Continental Troop Yard, when they will be appraised, & Receipts will be given, which being carried to Mr Doz, the State Commissr, Certificates will be given bearing In't. The Horses of Delegates in Congress, foreign Ministers, & Persons holding any office or Place of Trust under the United States, any such State, or this State, & Persons not resident in this City & Districts, are always excepted. This order to be executed by a Detachment from each Company, under the Direction of an officer, & with as little noise & Confusion as may be.

I am, Sir,

Your obed. H'ble servt,

JOS. REED, Presidt.

Indorsed,—June 9, 1780.

Instructions to Capt. Samuel Morris, 1780.

Philad^a, June 9th, 1780.

Sir,

The very critical situation of Gen. Washington's Army, destitute of Horses to remove his Artillery & valuable stores, has made it necessary to send forward, without delay, a Number of Horses, which cannot be obtained otherwise then by taking them from the disaffected, accordingly, orders have issued to seize them: but as it is probable many will attempt to get them out of Town, we have thought it necessary to direct a Patrole of Light Horse on each Road leading out of Town, viz. at Frankfort Bridge, on the German Town Road, the Wissahiccon Road, the Middle & lower Ferrys, on Schuylkill, the Moyamensing, Passyunk & Gloucester Point Roads, whose Duty it will be to stop all Persons leading Horses, or whom they still have Reason to believe are taking Horses out of Town, to avoid Seizure, securing the Horses & delivering them at the Forage Yard in Walnut street, with the Name & Person to whom they are said to belong. The Patroles may come in by 1 o'clock, by which Time it is presumed the Business will be finished.

I am, Sir,

Your obed. H'ble serv^t,

JOS. REED,

President.

Indorsed,—To Sam. Morris, Esq., command^s the Light Horse.

Pres. Reed to Christian Wirtz, 1780.

June 10, 1780.

Sir,

I have received your Letter of the 6th Inst., enclosing Col. Blaine's Requisition for 300 Barrels of Flour, to be forwarded to Sunbury, with which I would wish you to comply, but the Council are, at present, of opinion that the demands of that Post, & the situation of the Country, as well as other Circumstances, do not admit of sending any to Wyoming. You will, therefore, please to direct it accordingly, and confine yourself to the supply of Sunbury only. Mr Hambright will send you by this Opp^r the agreement of the merchants, &c., to receive the money, printed in Dutch & English, which we hope you will be able to use to advantage. The situation of affairs is such, that if supplies cannot be otherwise obtained, we must have Recourse to disagreeable Means, which we most earnestly desire to avoid. I therefore, intreat you to use every exertion to procure the supplies in the ordinary Course.

I am, Sir, Your obed. &

very H'ble Serv,t.

Directed,

To Major Wirts, Commissioner of Supplies, Lancaster.

Col. Sam'l. J. Atlee to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Pequea, June 10th, 1780.

Sir,

The Death of a very promising young man a Brother of Mrs. Atlee's has prevented my coming to Philada. as I intended.

I purposed waiting on you for the Arms, &c. necessary for the men demanded by the late Law, and to have returned before they could be collected, I must now wait their arrival in Lancaster before I can leave the County, the Quota of which will be 160 men.

I must beg Councill to order me 200 Stand with the accoutrements and ammunition necessary, as you know, Sir, there ought always, to be spare Arms &c. in case of Accidents.

Mr. Carpenter whom Councill was pleased from my Recommendation to appoint a Sub-Lieutenant, having been chosen Lt. Col. of one of the Battalions of militia, has resigned to me his Lieutenancy. That the Business might not be at a stand, I have stretch'd my Powers in giving Instructions to a Mr. Robert Good of the same District who will I think with more Resolution and activity perform the Duties required.

I must beg forgiveness of Councill for this Trespass upon their prerogative, and pray a Commission as Sub-Lieutenant for Mr. Good, whom I have seen and prevailed upon to accept.

The Law I think, Sir, has made no provision for persons under age, at the Time the oath of allegiance could be tendered, some who have since attain'd this age have been returned to me as officers and profess themselves willing to take the oath.

I must beg your oppinion in this Case as I have declined accepting them untill I hear from you, judging myself not authorised under the Law.

I am, Sir, with my best Regards for Councill.

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient and most Hble Serv't.

SAM. J. ATLEE.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr President.

Pres. Reed to Major Wm. Armstrong & Mr. Smith, 1780.

Gentlemen,

You are hereby appointed to value the Horses that will be brought you to-morrow taken in Pursuance of our Order. For which Purpose you will attend at the Forage Yard in Walnut Street in the Morning at 9 o'clock. When you will conscientiously appraise the several

Horses that may be brought in Continental Money making an Entry in a Book for that Purpose of the Name of the Owner the Age size & Colour of the Horse or Mare & the Price by you fixed Copies of which you will afterwards give to such as may apply to you therefore. A proper Compensation will be made you for your Trouble herein and also for Clerks you may find it necessary to employ. As the service will be of short Duration & admits of no Duty you cannot be excused from the Duty on any account.

It may be proper to brand the Horses as appraised with the Continental Brand.

I am Gent.
Your very Hbble Serv.
JOS. REED President.

Copy of letter of

GENL. WASHINGTON TO COMM'EE OF CONGRESS, 1780.

Head quarters, Springfield, June 11th, 1780.

Gentlemen,

It appears to me to be a very eligible step at the present juncture, to reiterate our instances with the several States to engage them to press the measures recommended in your former letter. Not only the time is sliding away very fast, every moment of which ought to be improved for the intended co-operation, but the movements of the enemy demand early exertion in our power for the purposes of defence. There can now remain no doubt that Charlestown and its garrison have fallen. There is every reason to believe, that Sir Henry Clinton with the whole or the greatest part of his force will shortly arrive at New-York. The expectation of the French fleet and Army will certainly determine the enemy to unite their force. General Knyphausen still continues in the Jerseys with all the force which can be spared from New-York; a force greatly superior to ours.

Should Sir Henry join him, the superiority will be decided, and equal to almost any thing the enemy may think proper to attempt. It is true, they are at this time inactive, but their continuance where they are, proves that they have some project of importance in contemplation perhaps they are only waiting till the Militia grow tired and return home (which they are doing every hour) to prosecute their designs with less opposition. This would be a critical moment for us. Perhaps they are waiting the arrival of Sir Henry Clinton, either to push up the North river, against the highland posts, or to bend their whole force against this Army, in either case, the most disastrous consequences are to be apprehended. You who are well acquainted with our situation, need no arguments to evince the danger. The Militia of this state have run to arms, and behaved with an order and spirit of which there are few examples. But perseverance

in enduring the rigors of military service is not to be expected from those who are not by profession obliged to it. The reverse of this opinion has been a great misfortune in our affairs, and it is high time we should recover from an error of so pernicious a nature. We must absolutely have a force of a different composition, or we must relinquish the contest.

In a few days we may expect to have to depend almost wholly on our Continental force, and this from your own observation, is totally inadequate to our safety. The exigency calls loudly upon the States to carry all the recommendations of the committee into the most vigorous and immediate execution, but most particularly that of compleating our battalions by a draft, and with all the expedition possible.

I beg leave to advise, that these ideas be all clearly held up to the States. Whatever inconvenience there may be in diffusing the knowledge of our circumstances, delicate as they are, there is in my opinion, more danger in concealing than disclosing them.

I have the honor to be, with perfect respect & esteem.

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient & humb^le serv^t.

G. WASHINGTON.

Directed,—Committee of Congress for co-operation.

NICHOLAS LUTZ TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Reading, June 11, 1780.

Sir,

I must request you would inform Council that in Consequence of your letter of the 1st of June, I proceeded immediately to purchase Cattle & Sheep but found them to be very Scarce, as there had been so many Butchers & drovers from Philadelphia and other places, that had bought them up before.

I procured 10 Head of Cattle & 40 Sheep most of which I was obliged to take according to the Act. I would have sent these down immediately but am short in Cash to bear the expenses on their way. If you think proper to send me an order on the Treasury for a Supply of Cash I could forward them immediately without that I can't be able to get any body to assist me.

I am just setting off to try another Rout, shall do what in my power to Supply.

I have the honor to be,

your Excellency's most

obedt. and humble Servt.,

NICHOLAS LUTZ.

N. B. Should be glad you would send me an answer as soon as possible.

Directed,—To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr., Philadelphia.

☞ Post.

Gov. Wm. Livingston to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Trenton, 11th June, 1780.

Sir,

It appears by a Letter from Lord Sterling of yesterdays date that the Enemy were still reinforcing behind their lines on Elizabeth Town point, and he supposes their design is to tire out the militia, & when they leave us, to attack the army, or that they are in daily expectations of Troops from Carolina, & wait till they are able to attack us in still greater force & make sure work of it, "& he thinks it will be necessary to make ourselves as strong as possible by getting in all the militia we can."

As I have had no other official notice of the Matter except the above Letter, & only received that, this morning, as part of our militia live at a prodigious distance from the place invaded, & as several of our Regiments along the frontiers cannot be called from their own Counties without exposing them to the ravages of the Refugees; it would be of singular service to the Common Cause to have the assistance of the militia of your State as soon as possible—I have the honour to be with the greatest regard,

Your Excellency's most humble
& Obedient Servant,
WIL. LIVINGSTON.*

Directed,

(Public Service,) His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Governor Livingston.

Copy—Genl. Washington to Committee of Congress, 1780.

Head quarters, Springfield, June 12th, 1780.

Gentlemen,

I have received information which though not official, I deem authentic, that some of the States have taken up the measure of augmenting their Battalions by a draft on a less extensive footing than was urged in your circular letter of the 25th of May. Though I wish to pay in every instance implicit deference to the determination of the respective States, I think it my duty, in the present crisis, once more to declare with freedom, that I conceive the measure of filling our battalions to their full complement, fundamental to a co-operation on a large scale.—That every thing short of this will infallibly compel us to confine ourselves to a more defensive plan,

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 386.

except as to some little partial indecisive enterprises against remote points; and will of course disappoint the expectations of our allies, and protract the War.

The force which has been stated as necessary is as small as can give us any prospect of a decisive effort. If it is not furnished we must renounce every hope of this kind. It remains with the States to realize the consequences. I have the honor to be with the greatest respect and esteem,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

G° WASHINGTON.

(Copy.)

Directed,

The Committee of co-operation.

Committee of Congress at Camp to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Circular.

Morris Town, June 12, 1780.

Sir,

We have the honor to enclose you a copy of a letter addressed to us by the Commander in Chief. The Contents will advise you to what an alarming crisis our affairs are reduced. The General observes, with great propriety, that this Committee "need no arguments to evince the danger." Indeed we do not; our own observations have led to the fullest conviction that unless the force stated in our second letter of the 25th ult., is drawn into the field with a celerity equal to the urgency of the occasion, the period which is to end our liberty and commence the most disgraceful state of slavery which human nature has ever experienced is not far distant. But dark and gloomy as the prospect is, America has it in her power to dispel the Cloud by those exertions of which she is abundantly capable, and to which it is her duty to rouse from every consideration which can affect the human heart. We are most indubitably possessed of the means wherewith to expel the enemy from every part of the Continent, but it requires a display of that virtue which distinguished the Citizens of Rome when their state was as ours now is, on the brink of ruin; and we trust Americans impressed with a proper sense of the blessings of peace, Liberty & Independence will follow the bright example, and evince to future ages what great minds are capable of when driven to the extremity of distress.

We dare not suppose, Sir, efficient measures have not been adopted by your state to compleat your battallions to the establishment recommended in the letter above referred to. On the contrary we believe that the men are raised or raising, but we have to conjure

you to hasten them on to the Army without a moment's delay. We intreat you likewise to give the most pointed direction to induce an unremitting attention to forward the supplies allotted to your state to be furnished as specified in our letter of the 2d Instant.

Had the Enemy on Wednesday last pursued, what was generally believed to be their object, our heavy Cannon & stores would inevitably have fallen into their hands, as our military force was incompetent to their protection, and the means of conveying them to places more distant for want of horses & Carriages out of our power.

Since writing the above a second letter from the Genl has been handed us, a copy whereof we inclose. Previous to our recommendation to compleat the Battallions to 504 Rank & file, we had a conference with the General on the subject, in which the matter was thoroughly canvassed and the necessity of the augmentation clearly evinced, the reduction of Charles Town was then still problematical. We had even hopes that it would have been saved, and the Maryland & Delaware lines have returned to this Army, which then, with the quota requested of the states would have amounted to about 25,000 men, the number which Congress had promised our Illustrious ally should be brought into the field to Co-operate with his troops. It is now believed that Charles Town is reduced, and the troops which defended it prisoners, consequently we shall certainly not have the Maryland & Delaware troops; hence those in this quarter will be less by nearly three Thousand men than our estimate. We therefore most earnestly intreat that no deduction may be made from the numbers we have stated as necessary.

We have the honor to be

With the greatest respect & Esteem,

Your most Obt servants,

PH. SCHUYLER,
JNO. MATHEWS,
NATHL. PEABODY.

Directed,

To the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania.

Col. L. Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sr,

I am just favoured with your Excellencies, & am to inform you that Lt. Bigham was set off with the Horses before I returned to the barracks; he complained to me in the morning of several delays he met with, particularly in procuring halters.

His conduct has been so reprehensible that I thought it necessary to send for him this morning & tell him very freely my opinion thereof. In consequence of an arrangement with Genl. Wayne, I

had ordered him to set off Friday afternoon with all the small parties in town belonging to the army. Want of arms & ammunition detained him till Saturday morning when I directed him to take two deserters then in the new Gaol under his care; this he neglected. He took charge of the horses without any orders, tho another officer was appointed for that service; he took a corporal & 11 men of the Maryland Line, who were waiting here for an officer to conduct them to the Southward, without orders. I should have stopped them had he not told me he knew not where to procure other men, & had given them 30 dollars, which was a needless waste of the public money, as they must have gone, if ordered, as soldiers. He further told me he would not take them farther than Bristol, where a Serj' & 12 men were to wait for him, tho his orders on Friday were to march his party to camp with all expedition.

A hessian Deserter has been with me, but as he says the enemy came to the Jerseys on Tuesday night & he deserted early the next morning, cannot give any information, nor can he tell how many corps were on the expedition.

A french man, who has been in that service, but produces a regular discharge, has been with me to enlist; he appears feeble, but he says it is owing to a late sickness. I have sent him to you to know your Excellencies opinion as to his being taken as a substitute or recruit.

Permit me to assure you that I am with respect

Your Excellencies

Most obedt. Servt.

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

12 June, 1780.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

JOHN HAYES, JR., TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Northampton County, Allen Township, June 12, 1780.

Sir,

I Receved your appointment of Comisery of Purches for the federal Army of the United States, and accordingly have made as much Intrest as is in my Power for To Purches Beef Cattel or Sheep with the Note of Credit, But I Could Not Pass any of them But Tow in Three Days. The Reson of their Not Passing in this Pairt is on account of the old Purchesers Which Bought up all the Cattel they Could on Their Credit, and the Peopel Cannot Get their Pay for what they sold them Last fall for to Discharge their Dets with, Which makes the money so much wanted. I Wase Apointed by the Levts. of this County for to Purches Beef and Sheep for the malatia that is Called out on the front Teers of this County, and it

is with Great Deffectualty that I got them Suplyed until Now. The Beef Cattel is very Scerce and hard to be Got; if there is not Sum other way Lead out for to Suppley them I will Give up and Resine my Post. If There were Sum money in hand it would Incorige the Seller for to Give what the Can Spair, as there is maney that want money for to Pay their Dets with. The times is very Dangerous with us at the Present. Last Satarday there ware an attacke made on the House of Rinehart By A Party of Indians in the morning of . The were Thought to Be about the Number of 12 or fifteen, But did no Damage But killed one Hors. I have Lead the Case Before you By these Lines, and want that you would Send an Answer By the Berer what must be Don with the malatia at Present. This is all from your friend

and Humbel Servent,

JOHN HAYS, Juner.*

Pres. Reed to Col. A. Lochry, 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 1st Inst.† has been duly received & Ammunition ord^d according to your Desire. The present State of publick affairs of which Mr. Scott will give you a particular Account, is so alarming that we cannot at present do any Thing farther for your Relief. The Enemy have made a Lodgment at Elizabeth Town, in New Jersey, scarcely two Days Journey from this, & should any Accident befal Gen. Washington the Consequences would be very fatal to this City—at all Events he requires our Support—We must therefore on this Occasion entreat you to use every Exertion for your own Safety within your Reach—We are much concerned to find so many Accidents befal the Supplies sent into the back Counties. At the same Time that you desire Losses replaced we think you would do well to inquire into the Causes of these real or pretended Accidents & bring Persons to some Account, as we cannot but think there must be some Imposition.

Your Intentions to go ag^t the Indians are very pleasing to me & I have no Doubt the Example will prove very useful. The Removal of the Records may also have been a very proper Measure, as Losses of that Nature are irretrievable.

No Petition has been sent here against you or a Copy should have been forwarded as you desire—As we are sensible that Prejudices & Resentments are often hastily taken up ag^t publick officers we do not trust them without due Inquiry.

When you see Col. Proctor you will inform him I have received his Letter which the Hurry of the Messenger does not give me Time

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 876.
† See page 282.

to answer—You will therefore communicate this to him, & be assured that every Thing will be done for your Relief which our Circumstances will admit.

I am in Haste Sir,

your Friend & Hbble Serv.

Indorsed.

1780, June 12th, to Colonel Archibald Lochry, Lieut. of W^e County.

Pres. Reed to Charles Wilson Peale, 1780.

Sir,

The Council return you their Thanks for the obliging Mark of your Attention this morning by presenting the Portrait of the late worthy President Wharton. A Character so amiable & distinguished in the great Contest cannot be too much honoured or his Remembrance too well preserved. It will therefore be placed near the Portrait of our excellent Gen., with whom in his Station he so nobly & faithfully co-operated.

I am Sir, your most obed. &

very Hbbl. Serv.

Indorsed,

1780, June 12th, To Charles Wilson Peale, Esq.

Pres. Reed to Col. John Piper, 1780.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 5th June* was duly received. We have observed with much Concern that Supplies of Ammunition intended for the Frontiers as well as other Articles sent by casual Opportunities seldom arrive at the Place of their Destination without much Loss. The Bearer of this, Mr. Campbell, not going back thro your County we have deferred sending the Ammunition requested till a good Opp^y offers. But we would request you on all Occasions of this kind to mention the Quantity & to send some suitable Person allways to take Care of it. We find much more Difficulty in the Means of Transportation than procuring the Articles.

The publick Business has sometimes been delayed a whole Day while Members of the Council were employed in looking for Waggons or Horses—which is not only inconvenient but degrading.

I do not mention these Circumstances as discouraging to you to apply when & for what is necessary but that the Business may be conducted with more Advantage to you & Care to us—As it will

* See page 302.

allways give us Pleasure to afford all possible Relief & gratify every reasonable Expectation—I am

Sir your obed. Hbbl. Serv.,

JOS. REED.

Directed,

Col. John Piper, Bedford.

Indorsed,

1780, June 13th, To Colonel John Piper.

Charles Pettit to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, 13 June, 1780.

Sir,

I had the honor to present to your Excellency on the 27th of April, the Draught of Congress on the President & Council of the State of Pennsylvania for two hundred thousand Dollars, which I am informed has not yet been transmitted to the State Treasurer. As that order is now my only resource for contingent expences, I must request it may be directed to the Treasurer for payment that I may be enabled to draw the money as he can find it convenient to pay it.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully

Your Excellency's

most obedt Servt,

CHARLES PETTIT

A. Q. M. Genl.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Col. Samuel Rea for Col. Chambers to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lower Smithfield, ye 14th of June, 1780.

To The Honourable the Supreme Executive Council in & for the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

Col. Rea Being indisposed With a Plueritick Disorder Hath Directed me to Send to Your Board for the Arms Ammunition & Nesisarry Equipment For the Volantier Company Raised in this County As also Your Instructions for Their Distination and Service they are To Perform. We Have Concluded to Muster Them On

* See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 395.

thursday the 22nd Instant at Easton Where they Will Be furnished with their Arms If arived And Ordered to the Care and Charge of Capt Johannes Vanetton The Bearer Mr Abm V. Cortright Will receive and Take Charge of the Above Articules I Have Nothing New to relate the Savages Have Not been Seen hier Since the ingagement of Capt Vanetten.

I am Gentlemen,

With much Respect

Your Hum. Servt.,

JOHN CHAMBERS, S. L.*

Directed,

(On Publick Service,) To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the Supreme Executive Council In & for the State of Pennsylvania, att Philadelphia.

JAMES CLAYPOOLE, SHEF. TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Spruce Street, 14th June, 1780.

Sir,

Agreeable to your intimation I now have the Honor of relating to your Excellency some particulars respecting the Sheriff's Office as it regards myself.

Mr. William Masters and Col. William Coats were return'd to His late Excellency Thomas Wharton Esquire, the then President and the Honble Supreme Executive Council as Sheriff's Elect in October 1776 continued uncommissioned as Sheriffs Elect and appointed by Council but without Commission or acting till the said President and Council the 13th of June 1777 were pleased to Commission me on Mr. Masters finally declining to act or Qualifye. I continued to do what business came to the Office 'till September following and in October the British Army having taken possession of the City and great part of the County of Philadelphia no General Election was held for said County except at the upper District at Jacob Wentz's and no return as I understand except for Members of the general Assembly—During the Residence of the English in Philadelphia no one was either commissioned or apointed 'till on my return from General Washington's Head Quarters to York Town in May 1778 I had a Letter from The Honble George Bryan Esquire signifying a desire I should come down to Lancaster where I received a Commission as Sheriff 13th of June and came down to Philadelphia as soon as possible and on the 13th of October following was returned with Mr. Christopher Ludwig as Sheriff Elect and likewise at the following which was the last general Election so that I have been but twice elected to that Office—I beg leave to mention to your Excel-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 391.

lency that I have executed the Office under peculiar disadvantages such as the great Difficulty of procuring suitable Assistants so many of our Citizens being engaged in the Army departments and the lowness of the fees they being during the time of my first Commission only the same nominal sum altho it would not purchase above one third it would formerly they were increased two for one at Lancaster just before my second appointment at which rate and three for one the fees continued 'till some time in December last when they were increased to Thirty, untill which time the Execution of the Office brought me manifestly and unavoidably in Debt more especially in every Instance of Executing Process at any distance from the City when the necessary expenses to myself have frequently cost me more than ten times that all the fees have amounted to and for which I have in no way received any compensation and increased as the fees now are require the best Œconomy to afford a sufficiency for the support of myself and Officers I beg leave to add that if I should by any means be deprived of having the Office another year, after the ensuing Election I know of no way by which I should be enabled to make up for Deficiencies of the fees for the far greatest part of the time past—I hope your Excellency will pardon the length of this and am,

Your most obedient
humble Servant,
JAMES CLAYPOOLE, Sheriff,

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Col. Andrew Boyd to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sadsbury, 14th June, 1880.

Sir,

I was honour'd with your Excellencies Letter, respecting the hyre of Teams for the publick service, and I am sorry to inform you that that plan, though well calculated to serve the publick demand, and not to injure the Farmers, has not answered the end proposed, nor do I exspect that we shall be capable of supplying the Quarter Master department with one Brigade of Waggons, but by compulsive measures, however disagreeable that mode may be.

They greater part of the Teams in this County that was formerly employed in the public service hath either sold them to the publick or is now employed in farming, and them that do yet exist is engaged at the head of Elk; it is hard that this County should be called on for their quota of Waggons, and have a number of Teams constantly employed in doing the business that belongs to another State, that quarter has allways prevented us in this County of sup-

plying the publick with Waggons, under the law, the service at Elk is more easy, and Forrage more plenty than at or near the Army; which induces the owner of Teams to prefer that service to any other.

I have the honour to be,

with much respect,

your Excellencies very Humble Servt.,

ANDW. BOYD, W. M. G. O. C.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, President, Philadelphia.

ARCHIBALD MCELROY TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Sir,

As an officer of the Militia I beg leave to lay a state of things before you that I Could Wish to have Remedy if possible. I have Receiv^d Orders to have the Battalion I Command in Constant readiness, Should the be wanted, which I Wish to do with great Pleasure, but we have no arms fit for Use, or third the Compliment we ought to have of any kind. As I am Informed there is a Great Number of guns Dispersed through the County, I have to Request you to give Orders to have them Collected and put in Order. I have Apply'd to Mr. Hart, our Lieut., and have not heard of any Move in that matter yet; the Militia on the Old Establishment Complains much that the former fines has not been Collected, and the Torys triumph in and Expect it will be the Case Under this New Law. This Neglect in the former officers has hurt the spirit of the well affected people hear as the have Attended or paid on Muster days, whilst the others has made sport of them. The late Resolve of Counsel for the Inlisting two men Out of Each Company is not Comply'd with yet, hear the men is to be had, but Expect a Large Bounty. As I have no Directions how to do in the Matter, I Could wish it was put on such a footing soon so as to Answer all the Good purpose Government Intended it for.

Sir, I am, With Respect and Differance,

ARCH. McELROY.

Bristol, June 15.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, &c.

Colo. Christopher Kucher to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lebanon, June 15th, 1780.

Sir,

By Mr. Phillip Weiser Your Excellency will Receive the Roll of the Officers of the Second Battalion of Lancaster County Militia, To Whom You will be Pleased to Grant Commissions.

The Pressing Demands and Penetrative Requests of the well Affected People for the Collection of the Old Fines, Necessitating me to make Application for Your Excellency's Order and Direction in the Premises, to Attone the Heavy Complaints of the Good People who have allways Rendered their Personal Services in the Militia, and to Silence the Ridicule and Tantalizing of the Disaffected, who never have done any Duty, neither in Person nor in the Pecuniary Way.

Should Your Excellency be Pleased with the Recommendation of Mr. Adam Orth,* then it is hoped You will Please to Direct him to put the Law in Execution against such as were Delinquent under the Late Militia Law, and to Prevent to Total Pernicious Consequence which will Attend the Collection of the New Fines, before the Old shall be fully Discharged.

Your Excellency will Therefore take the Premises in Consideration, and Grant the Good People Such Reasonable Satisfaction, and Enable the Present Officers to discharge the Farther Services Required of them, as Your Excellency Shall think Proper.

I am, with due Respect,

Your Excellency's most Obedt. Humb. Servant,

CHRISTOPH KUCHER, S. L. L. C.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To his Excellency, Jos. Reed, President, at Philadelphia.

Favoured per Mr. Weiser.

Colo. John Hannum to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Bradford, June 15th, 1780.

Sir,

Pursuant to your orders I have Collected Twenty Eight Cattle and one Hundred and one Sheep—All that I could collect in so short a time, having not recvd your Orders till the Eleventh Inst.; they are not so good as I could wish, but They are the best that I could get. It gives me Concern that the army is reduced to the Extremity

*See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 392.

they Are, being well assured that one person may Be found that will Engage to furnish the pennsylvania Troops with Every necessery provisions, And to suffer Death the Day They are Destitute thereof. You will please To Order Captn Siminson to Receve the Am^t of Two Thousand pounds, the Expense Incur'd in furnishing the said Cattle and sheep.

I Remain, with all Due Respect,

your most Obt., Humb. Sert.,

JOHN HANNUM.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Circular.

Sir,

Congress repeat their applications to your State. They would willingly hope that their former representations have not been ineffectual, and that the States are pursuing measures to enable our armies to take the field with a force superior to that of the Enemy, and with such ample Supplies of provisions as will not only maintain them in plenty, but enable the Commander in Chief if necessary on any extraordinary occasion to avail himself of the aid of the militia. But on these hopes Congress dare not rely, every moment presses. It is necessary they should have the most explicit assurances not only that their requisitions will be complied with but that such compliance will be as immediate as the public wants are urgent. The letters from our Committee at Head quarters to you, State those wants without exaggeration. They state some facts and leave to your judgements to Supply others which it would have been improper to Commit to paper. The object of this address is only to enforce their requests and to entreat you not to repose your Safety upon the spirit and vigilance of others while any means within your own power are left untried. The present occasion calls for the united force of America. It gives us great consolation that notwithstanding the difficulties in which we are involved the resources of the states if Speedily applied, are Sufficient to relieve it from them.

Every State in the union is bound by the Strongest Obligations to afford us their aid, and we trust that at this critical emergency, no present ease or convenience of individuals will be put in competition with the lasting happiness of millions—That the rulers of States will not hesitate to exert their utmost authority and that the people have too much understanding to refuse a temporary Submission to such vigorous exertions as are necessary to Secure them from continued oppression & established Tyranny.

A common council involves the power of direction. Let not our

measures be checked or controlled by the negligence or partial views and interest of seperate communities while they profess to be members of one body—too long have the dearest interests of America been sacrificed to present Ease. Too many of us have slept in false security. Let us awake before the season for successful exertion is passed. Judge you whether the loss of Charlestown and the situation of your grand army does not call for every spirited effort. The objects which claim your immediate attention, are clearly pointed out by the requisitions of Congress and their committee at Head quarters. Let them be complied with. Enable us to cooperate vigorously with the Fleets and armies of our ally, and we may reasonably hope through the blessing of divine providence for a speedy and happy termination of a controversy which is to give freedom and Independence to millions.

By order of Congress,

SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

Philadelphia, June 15th, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency the President of Pennsylvania.

Joseph Hart to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Warminster, Jany^a 15th, 1780.

Hon. Sir,

At my return from the Court this afternoon, I recd. Councils Letter of the 13th, with a Resolve of Council for ordering four Classes of the Militia to hold themselves in readiness to march &c.,—and some other papers Enclosed; and Council may be assured that no time shall be lost in letting the Collonels know of sd, Resolve, but fear it will impeade the raising the Volunteers, which now seems to be going on prety cleverly, and I am in hopes to have ½ the number ready to send down in the Begining of Next Week. The loss of Charles Town is a most allarming Circumstance, and ought to rouse every American to the highest Exertion, but I fear it will have a very contrary Effect with many.

We had but few Ind^ts this Court, and but one Jury Tryal, which was a Fellow for Stealing a horse he suffered all the Punishment directed by the late act of assembly, and his Ears remains yet Nailed to the pillory.

I am Hond. Sir,

Your most obedt humble Servt.

JOSEPH HART.

P. S. It may not be amiss to add a Coppy of a Letter I have just recd. from Doctr. McIlvain, which you have in his own Words as followeth. "Bristol June ye 13th 1780 Dr. Sir Being in Philad.

about ten days ago I waited on his Excellency Governour Reed, to ask him a few questions relative to the Determination of Council on Mr. McElroys Case He informed me that what was done was in Consequence of a Letter from one of the Sub Lieuts. of the County, but upon a full and clear State of the Circumstances delivered in writing by you to Council, that they would take up the matter again and give their opinions accordingly. I promised to give you the above Notice and hope you will get the affair finally adjusted with that Expedition which your good sence points out absolutely nessessary at our present juncture, I am with much Esteem your humble Servt. WILLIAM McILVAIN.

Now what your Excellency desires of me more than I have already done, I cannot tell, for previous to the granting the Commission I stated the matter to Council (in a Letter) as fully as I could do it now, and upon which I shall rest the matter till I hear again from you.

JOSEPH HART.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the supreme Executive Council &c., Philadelphia.

Joseph Hart to Pres. Reed, 1780.

June 15th, 1780, at 4 in the afternoon.

Hon. Sir,

I just now rece'd yours of the 14th & 15th, Instant together with the Crisis &c., &c., and am sorry to say we are not as foreward with the recruits as I could wish. In mine of yesterday I mentioned ½ being ready to send down in the begining of next week, and I do not think more than that can be done, as I find many of them are not yet Inlisted, and a general backwardness to the Service is but too obvious. None of the men are yet attested tho many have Signed the Inlistments; as that may be done when they are Collected ready to march. I shall pay due obedience to this Resolve of Council for Collecting the Publick arms & Disarming the disaffected as far as lies in my power; but for 2 or 3 Days past have been somewhat Indisposed, tho not quite laid by.

I am Hon. Sir,

your most obedt.

and very Humble Servt.

JOSEPH HART.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr. President of the supreme Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

Christian Wirtz to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lancaster, June 16th, 1780.

Sir,

As I have no other Object in View but the good of my Country, I am induc'd to be more Troublesome to Council than I could wish to be.

It would be a very disagreeable Task to Perplex and Tieze your Attention, was it not realy necessary, Therefore, let me assure you that the daily supplies which are required from this County cannot be procured on the present mode adopted. The terms mentioned by the President in a Letter of 31st Ult., I have strictly attended to, but on such mild principles nothing will be procured. If Generous Terms are too long offered Council will effectually be sensible of the Delay which perhaps may be attended with Ill Consequences. I should conceive it highly necessary to proceed according to Law, in the Execution of which a few Militia would not be amiss to obtain the sufficient Quantity demanded; of the Propriety of this Council will please to give their opinion, and such further Instructions as they shall think fit, together with the amendments made since the adjournment of the Assembly. Col. Blair has resumed his request for *one thousand* Barrells of Flower.

This you will receive ℘ Express, would be fond of y^r Immediate Answer.

I have wrote to the president, but have received no Instructions since.

Directed.

Public Service.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., Presid^t of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Per Express.

Phillip Marsteller to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lebanon, June 16th, 1780.

Sir,

A Packet from your Excellency, inclosing a Number of Certificates, The Act for procuring an immediate Supply of Provisions for the Army, and an Appointment as one of the Commissioners, came duly to Hand on the Evening of the 7th Inst. I must confess however willing and ready I am to serve my Country, nothing less than so brave Soldiers in Distress as those of the United States, could ever have induced me to undertake so weighty and troublesome a Task in my present declining State of Health; but considering what Time would be lost should I decline this Service, until your Excellency should have Notice thereof, and make another appointment, I

sat out the afternoon of the Day following, and have since purchased 31, and seized 13, amounting in the whole to 44 Head of Cattle, as you will observe by the inclosed Account. All of them eatable and fit for immediate use. The 13 Head of Cattle seized I took from a certain Adam Rickard, a noted Drover and Dealer in Hard Money, from Chester County, who has taken the greatest Pains to represent our Cause and the Continental Money in the blackest Dye imaginable, in order to dispose of the Metal he was dealing in to the greatest advantage to himself; therefore, was very glad to embrace this Opportunity to curb his pernicious Designs in some Measure.

The Cattle fit for immediate Use are exceedingly scarce and hard to be had under the Rule Established and laid down in the Law, nevertheless, it is with Pleasure I inform your Excellency that the whole of this Drove, (except the 13) I procured with the Consent of the Owners without Colour of Seizure; from the well disposed People out of affection and good Will, and from the Disaffected out of Fear. And hope, if necessary, to be able in about 10 or 12 Days to send about 40 or 50 more, without scouring the North and South Mountains, which must be done in Case of any further Demands.

Your Excellency will please to observe that many of the wealthy Menonists and others who live in the Neighbourhood of Lancaster, Manheim and Conostogoe, drive Flocks of Cattle over the Mountains in the Spring Season, to the great Distress of the poor Inhabitants; Those Men undoubtedly have them to spare, otherwise they would keep them on their own Farms, and therefore ought to be taken from them; but this can not be done without the Assistance of 10 or 12 Men to drive them together, which would be attended with Extra Charges. Therefore wait your Excellency's particular Instructions in the Premises.

The Expence of collecting and driving the Cattle is so very high, (being out of money and shall not be able to pay for the Expence of those already procured) should therefore be glad that some Money would be sent by the Bearer to defray the Charges, otherwise can send no more Cattle.

In a former Letter your Excellency has been pleased to request me to have my old Accounts, as Pay Master, in Readines for a Settlement; in Answer to which I would beg Leave to mention That my Accounts are fully settled, excepting Five Thousand Pounds, being the last Monies drawn in Consequence of an Order from the Hon'ble Council, which I shall settle by the very first Opportunity, finding a small Ballance due to

Your Excellency's most

Obed't humble Servt.,

P. MARSTELLER.

Sir,

The inclosed Account of Purchases, together with the Incidental Charges thereon, at first View may appear high, but Considering the State of our Money, the Scarcity of Beef Cattle, and the Inconvenience of procuring them, I flatter my self of having Bought them reasonable, they being of Such a Size and Quality rather beyond my first Expectation. The whole of the Charges I have added to the Hour of Starting the Cattle for Philada. The Expence from this place down cannot be ascertained until the drovers return.

Mr. Edwards has delivered me 4 Head, and trying to get more, and means to deliver me Cattle to the amount of the Public Money he imprudently made use of, and hopes that this will, in some Measure, Attone for his former Conduct, when he shall deliver me the remainder of the Cattle I shall give him an order on the H. Council.

Respecting the 11 Head of Cattle charged in the name of Adam Orth; 2 of them I purchased from him, 1 was my own property, and the Remaining 8 I purchased from Sundry Persons at the prices, making in the whole the Actual Price Charged in the account, and gave my own Cash and Notes for them, as they belonged to such People who had already p^d their Taxes, and did not incline to take Certificates, and I did not like to take them by Seizure, finding the People ready to sell for the Money; Therefore, hope your Excellency will send me, by the bearer, Mr. Weiser, the £4372 10, and the further Sum of £2000 for Expences paid and Cash advanced to Mr. Weiser for driving the Cattle to Philada. Should this not be done I cannot attempt procuring any more Cattle, as I have not Money to bear my Expences one day. I have the Honour to Subscribe myself,

Your Excellency's Very Humble Servt.,

P. MARSTELLER.*

Joseph Reed, Esq., President.

Pres. Reed to Governor Lee, of Maryland, 1780.

Sir,

The very interesting & alarming Accounts received from Camp, which I doubt are also communicated to your Excellency, the pressing Necessity of filling up the Continental Line & reserving the various Supplies of the Country for immediate publick Use, have induced this Board to lay a general Embargo on all Vessels. But you must be sensible, Sir, that Precautions of this Kind fail very much of the desired Effect unless there is a concurrence of the Neighbouring States. The Number of Men who have set out immediately for Baltimore since the Embargo has been laid evince the Justice of this Remark & make it my Duty to request your Excellency if it is

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 392.

consistent with your Judgment to co-operate with us at so critical a Juncture. The Circumstances of the Port are such that the Restriction is in many Respects highly inconvenient & even injurious to the Merchants, who will, therefore, set very uneasy under it if they find the Benefits proposed eluded by open Ports elsewhere. Should Circumstances change so as to obviate the Necessity of its Continuance here I shall communicate our Proceedings to your Excell'y, with all Despatch, it appearing to us that the general Interest will be greatly promoted by a Harmony of Measures at this Time.

I am, Sir, with much respect,

Your Excelly's most obed't

& very H'ble Servt.*

Indorsed,

1780, June 16th, To Thomas Sim Lee, Gr of Maryland.

C. J. McKean to Pres. Reed, 1780.

June, 16th, 1780.

Sir,

Herewith your Excellency and the Council will receive a copy of the record of Conviction of Daniel Zuber. His confession of the crime wherewith he was charged was obtained by Justice Hubly, on a promise of his being made an approver; this Mr. Hubly acknowledged to the Judges at last October Sessions of Oyer and Terminer for Lancaster county, and interceded with the Judges in his behalf. The man Zuber principally charged as his Seducer is Valentine Shockey, at the head of the Banditti in York county, who debase the Continental Currency by counterfeits; as he lives on the Maryland Line, and is not only artful, but daring, we have not yet been able to apprehend him. Zuber would be intitled to the benefit of Clergy, if the Court proceeded to Sentence; but as we were informed by the Attorney General, that Council intended to pardon him after he was convicted, we bailed him until the next sessions of General Goal Delivery at Lancaster, that he might have an opportunity to procure his pardon in the mean time, and then plead it in stay of Judgment; if we had proceeded to Sentence, it must have been executed immediately. Upon the whole, it was the opinion of the Court, that considering all the circumstances of his case, it would tend most to the benefit of Government that he should be pardoned.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's and the Councils

most obedient humble Servant.

THO. McKEAN.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 387.

David Forman to Genl. Washington, 1780.

(Copy.)

Sir,

Yesterday afternoon Three Frigates arrived within Sandy Hook. In the Evening a fourth ship of War run in. The tory report of this day is, that Admiral Arbuthnot was on board.

This afternoon a large Fleet appeared standing for Sandy Hook. The air my Intelligencer says, was too foggy for good observation, but that before sundown he counted sixty-five sail of Ships of War and transports distinctly—and saw a number more in the offing. That immediately they run within the Hook as they arrived.

From their running immediately into the Hook as they arrived, it will not I presume admit of a doubt of their being British and I think it is very likely from Carolina.

By day light I will myself be on the Highlands of Middle-town —from that place some time in the day (as early as possible) I will do myself the honor to transmit to your Excellency as much an account of the Fleet, as can be got from observation or information.

I have the Honor to be

Y^r Excellency's Most Obed. S^t.

DAVID FORMAN.

Saturday night 11 o'clock 17 June 1780.

Directed,

His Exc'^ly Genl. Washington.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress 17th June 1780.

Whereas it is essential to the due direction of public affairs that the Superintending power should be intimately acquainted with the measures that have been pursued in consequence of their resolves by those on whom from the nature of the government the execution of them devolves, And whereas it is equally necessary to examine the source from which the public embarrassments spring.

Resolved, That the United States from New hampshire to South Carolina inclusive except such of them as have made returns of their transactions be requested at this critical conjuncture to inform Congress with the utmost expedition what measures they have taken in consequence of the several resolutions, a list of which is hereunto annexed.*

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'^y.

* See them in Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 398.

Pres. Reed to Col. Atlee, 1780.

To Col. Atlee, Lieutenant of Lancaster County.

Sir,

The interesting & alarming Accounts received from Gen. Washington of the Progress of the Enemy, & their apparent Intentions again to penetrate the Country & invade this State, make it absolutely necessary to forward the Recruits raised under the new Law without Loss of Time. Those from your County, under this Change of Circumstances, are to be forwarded to this City. The Recruits of this City & County are sent in well cloath'd, which we hope will be the Case with yours; but we would not have them delayed on this Account—Arms & Accoutrements will be prepared for them here or at Camp.

Your Favours of the 6th & 10th Inst.* are duly received.—The Number of Officers in the Continental Service will not make it eligible to appoint more than are absolutely necessary, & therefore no Field Officers are to be appointed—and we hope these will reach you in Time to prevent the Commissions sent you being filled up. If not, we would wish you to represent to those Officers, that under the great Change of Circumstances, if they will waive those Appointments, it will serve the Publick, & we will cheerfully pay any Expences. But it is a delicate Point, which we must leave you to manage in the best Way you can. At all Events the Men must come on as fast as possible.—Gen. Washington's Letters are as alarming as those in 1776, & have operated here so as to call forth 2 Classes of Militia—& lay an Embargo on the Vessels; in short, there never was a Time when Animation & Exertion were more necessary.—Council have confirmed your Appointment of Mr Good —& we see no Difficulty in admitting those young Men you describe to take the Oaths of Allegiance to qualify them for the Purposes you mention.—It is very pleasing to us to see such a Disposition in the young Men growing up. Our Clerk forwarded you a Recommendation of one Adam Ort, of Lebanon, as Collector of the outstanding Fines —You will observe by the Law the new Lieutenant or Sub Lieutenants are appointed to this Duty, but it appears to us, that an Authority derived from us will have more Weight & be easier to the new Officers. Your Appointment accord'ng to the Recommendation may be proper & Necessary.

I am, Sir, your obed.

& very Hble. Sert.

P. S.—We also send you inclosed Orders from the Board of War to those Commissaries & Qr Masters to accommodate the new Recruits; & we would wish that one of the Sub Lieutenants, or other suitable

* See page 305.

Persons appointed by you, should conduct them down & deliver them here, as Care must be taken to prevent Desertion.

Indorsed,

1780, June 17th. To Colonel Samuel J. Atlee.

Pres. Reed to John Mitchell, 1780.

Sir,

As we are called upon by the Committee of Congress at Camp for Horses, we took it for granted they were to be delivered to the Q^r Mr Genl or his Deputies, & that on such Delivery suitable Receipts would be given: we cannot think Mr. Bigham's Receipt by any means sufficient or proper to found a Charge thereupon ag^t the United States—When, therefore, Mr. Armstrong presents the List with the Prices affixed, we shall expect that an official Receipt be given. Gen. Washington has, in his Letters, directed the Delivery of these Articles to the Q^r Mr Gen., & Gen. Greene, when in Town gave your Name as one of those to whom Delivery was to be made.

I am, Sir, your Obed.

& very Hbbl. Servt.

Indorsed,

June 17th, 1780.

Note remise au Congres, le 18 Juin 1780.

Le Ministre de France soussigné a été témoin des efforts que le Congrès a faits pour mettre le Général en chef en état de commencer glorieusement la campagne; il est convaincu du zèle dont tous les membres qui le composent sont animés et si l'armée n'a jusqu'à ce moment reçu aucune des augmentations, annoncées dès le mois de Janvier d^r. il est persuadé que le Congrès est vivement peiné de ces délais et desire sincèrement de prévenir les conséquences facheuses qu'ils peuvent avoir. Le soussigné n'a cessé depuis le commencement de cette année de faire les représentations les plus pressantes à cet égard et toutes les reponses qu'il a reçues tendoient à l'assurer que les arrangemens annoncés recevroient leur entière exécution au commencement de ce mois. Aujourd'hui que le terme fixé pour mettre l'Armée sur un pied respectable est ecoulé et qu'il n'est que trop certain que les recrues demandées il y a quatre ou cinq mois ne sont point arrivées; il prie instament le Congrès de vouloir bien s'occuper immédiatement de leur envoy et de l'accomplissement de ses promesses. Le Roi d'après les assurances positives qu'il a reçues ne doute aucunement que *l'Armée Américaine ne soit actuellement forte de* 25000 *hommes non compris les officiers ayant Commission et qu'elle ne soit en ce moment en état d'entreprendre les opérations*

offensives les plus vigoureuses contre les ennemis dans tous les postes qu'ils occupent sur le territoire des Etat unis. Le Congrès en donnant ces assurances a exprimé d'une manière pressante le désir qu'une Escadre Françoise pût faciliter les opérations des troupes de terre. Le Roi s'est empressé à repondre aux voeux des treize Etats. Leurs assurances sont la baze des mesures que S. M. a prises; une Escadre est sur le point d'arriver et les généraux François s'attendent à trouver des forces respectables pretes à entrer en action. Si au moment de leur arrivée ils sont depourvûs du concours sur lequel ils ont dû compter, le moment le plus précieux pour opérer sera perdu, l'ennemi aura le tems de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour sa deffense et peut être de recevoir des renforts, l'ardeur du Soldat s'éteindra dans l'inaction et cette lenteur fera perdre le fruit d'une campagne qu'on eut été sûr de rendre de la plus grande utilité à la cause commune et peut être décisive en y mettant la celérité et l'activité convenable.

La nécessité de compléter l'Armée étant manifeste, le Soussigné ne doute pas que le Congrès autant par la considération de l'intérêt public que pour sa propre gloire et l'exécution de ses promesses ne prenne dès ce moment pour y parvenir des mesures plus efficaces que celles dont on a usé jusqu'à ce jour. Il espère aussi qu'on fera d'avance les dispositions propres à maintenir constament le nombre annoncé pendant la durée de la campagne, et il prend la liberté de recommander également cet objet important à la Considération du Congrès. Le Ministre de France convaincu du zêle dont cette Assemblée est animée pour le bien public ainsi que de sa sagesse et de sa prudence espère qu'elle ne verra dans ses représentations qu'une nouvelle preuve de son attachement à la cause commune, qu'elle lui saura gré de la franchise avec laquelle il s'explique sur une matière aussi importante et qu'elle voudra bien le mettre en état de faire parvenir à sa Cour des détails satisfaisans touchant l'exécution des assurances qu'il lui a transmises dès le mois de Janv^r. d^r.

Philadelphie le 18 Juin 1780.

Col. Sam'l J. Atlee to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Pequea, June 18th, 1780.

Sir,

The Recommendation of Adam Ort as Collector of the outstanding Fines has been rec^d together with your Excellencies Letter of the 14th Inst.

My sentiments with respect to the Business of the old Department have been fully communicated to Councill, I must still continue to decline having any thing to do in the matter.

I am very glad to find Councill have somebody in view: Ort I believe to be a very good man, but fear will not have the Resolution that

will be found necessary for the efectual prosecution of that arduous Task. I hope however he will perform better than I apprehend: At any Rate the Business must have a Beginning, and unless prosecuted with vigour will answer very little Purpose.

The accounts from the General are truly alarming, but trust the Spirit of the people which seems to be rousing as danger approaches, will convince our Enemies that this State is not be invaded with impunity.

I am using my utmost Industry for the collecting the Recruits, and hope in a very few Days to be able agreeable to the Request of Councill to send off the greatest part of those demand'd from this County, such as I have yett received are exceeding good men, promise myself the Remainder will be equally so.

The Rout of these Troop being altered from the Change of circumstances, I fear will cause some uneasiness in many of them particularly those from the upper District; who apprehended they were destined to sucour their Neighbourhood upon the Frontiers.

I shou'd be glad one company at least cou'd be spared for that purpose, as I have lately assured Col. Hunter, that I hope shortly to find him some relief.

I had appointed but one Ensign before I rec^{d} your Excellenceys Letter, to receive and draw for the Recruits as they should arrive in Lancaster, I shall order him as one to conduct them to Philadelphia, where you may either prevail upon him to relinquish or continue him at your pleasure.

Your Clerk I apprehend thr'o mistake instead of the Board of Wars orders for Lancaster, inclosed me the order for Northampton upon the Commissaries & Quarter Masters. I must endeavour to rectify it in my Instructions to the Officers who shall have the Charge of the Recruits.

I thank Councill for the Confirmation of Mr. Good's appointment, and shall be glad the Clerk will forward me his Commission.

I am your Excellencys

most ob^{t} and very Hble Servt

SAM'L J. ATLEE.

Directed,

On Public Service.

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Committee of Congress at Camp to Pres. Reed, 1780.

(Circular.)

Morris Town, June 19th, 1780.

Sir,

We inclose you a copy of Genl Washingtons letter to us of this day. We have in our former letters dwelt so forcibly on the several matters contained in the Generals letter that it is now become almost unnecessary for us to say any thing more on them. But when we consider the season for operation wears fast away, the small force we now have in the field being still fed in a scanty and uncertain manner, the hourly expectation of the Fleet & Army of our ally on our coast and that the Commander in Chief as well as ourselves, are as yet totally uninformed what are to be our expectations, on the subject of our former letters. Be assured sir, we feel an anxiety congenial with his, you will therefore we are persuaded pardon us for being thus solicitous, when we again intreat you in the most urgent manner to use every exertion in your power to engage your state, to a speedy & decisive complyance with our former requisitions. The two points we would wish to impress most forcibly on yours and the minds of the Legislature of your state are immediately forwarding your quota of troops necessary to compleat your Battallions in the Continental Army, and of supplies of provision, agreeable to the estimates inclosed you in your letter of the *Ins^t at the same time we would not wish you to consider, *any part* of our former requisition as become in the least degree unnecessary. On the contrary we are more strongly convinced, that they are already as small as the important objects in view, can possibly admit of. We only mention the two first, as the most *immediately* and *indespensibly* necessary for, reinforced as the enemy now are by the return of their troops from the reduction of Charles Town, we momently expect an attack will be made on our weak and almost resistless army. Should this event happen whilst in this State we seriously dread the result.

From the well known indefatigable attention of your State to the welfare of the United states we cannot entertain a doubt of its exertions at this interesting conjuncture, and we most earnestly intreat you to give us the earliest information of the final determinations of your State on the subjects of this and our former letters.

We take the Liberty of again calling your attention to the urgent necessity of forwarding the flour to West point. The reasons for this pressing call are fully contain'd in our letter of the Inst., to which we beg leave to refer you.

We are sir, with the highest respect,

your most obed^t serv.,

JNO. MATTHEWS.
NATH. PEABODY.

Directed,—To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr.

* 12th? See page, 315.

Gen. Washington to Committee of Congress, 1780.

Head quarters, Springfield, June 19th, 1780.

Gentlemen,

From the vast importance of the thing, I hoped that I should have been informed before this of the measures which the several States meant to adopt in consequence of your late requisitions; but as I have not, I am certain you are unadvised yourselves and have only to lament with you, the delay. This is a point of primary consequence. We are now arrived at the period when we may momently expect the fleet from France. For want of information it has been impossible for me to digest a system of co-operation. I have no data on which to proceed—and, of course were the armament to come, I should find myself in the most delicate, embarrassing and cruel situation. The french commanders, from the relation in which I stand, the instant they reach our coast will look to me for a plan of the measures to be pursued, and I ought, of right, to have one prepared. But I cannot even give them conjectures. The interest of the states, the reputation of their councils, the justice and gratitude due our allies, a regard for my own character, all demand that I should, without delay, be enabled to ascertain and inform them what we can, or what we cannot undertake. Besides, there is a point now to be determined, on which the success of all our future operations may turn, which for want of knowing our prospects I am altogether at a loss what to do in.

To avoid involving the Fleet and Army of our allies in circumstances which if not seconded by us would expose them to material inconvenience and hazard, I shall be obliged to suspend a step, the delay of which may be fatal to our hopes. I therefore beg leave to suggest to the committee the indispensible necessity of writing again to the different states, urging them to give immediate and precise information of the measures they have taken, the success they have had, and the probable result of them.

I have the honor to be,

with great respect & esteem, Gentlemen,

your most ob^t & hum^ble serv^t,

G^o WASHINGTON.

(Copy.)

Directed,

Honble Committee of Co-operation.

Isaac Roach to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

Inclos^d you have a List of the Prisoners names Taken by me In the Delawar bay On the 26th of May last.

Prisoners Names.
Thomas James, Prize M^r.
John Robinson,
John Farris,
Wm Han.

I am Sir, your Honr^e most
Obedient & very Humbl. Servt,
ISAAC ROACH.

June 19th, 1780.

Directed,
The Honble Wm More, Esqr., Vice President.

Gen. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Head Quarters,
Springfield, June 19th, 1780.

Dr Sir,

The arrival of Admiral Arbuthnot at New York with a fleet of from sixty to seventy sail said to contain a part of the Southern army is an additional motive for extraordinary exertions at this juncture. West Point is far from being in security. Our stores and baggage in this State are almost at the mercy of the enemy if they advance in force. A great proportion of the Jersey teams are in service, and they are quite inadequate to the exigency.—We are therefore obliged to have recourse to your State and to solicit the aid of two hundred and fifty teams, as expeditiously as they can be collected; those obtained in the counties of Philadelphia, Bucks and Chester, to be delivered to Mr. More Foreman, at Trenton; those procured in the upper counties to take in loads of flour, if ready, and proceed directly by Easton to the North River.

It were much to be wished that the teams now furnished may go to the account of those required by the Committee, but if they cannot be drawn out with sufficient expedition in the proper proportion for this purpose, they may return after performing the present Service,

'till a further arrangement can take place for the demands of the campaign, for supplying which, however, the period is arrived.*

I have the honor to be
with the greatest respect
your Excellency's
most obedient servant,
G° WASHINGTON.

Directed,
Public service.
His Excellency Governor Reed, Pensylvania.

The Express, the bearer of this, is to ride night and day & should he be in want of a fresh horse all Q. M^rs & other well wishers to the independence of America are hereby requested to furnish him with such horses as will answer the purpose of forwarding this Letter.

By order of the Commander in Chief.
BENJ^a BROWN, Ass D. Q. M. G.

Secretary of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

(Circular.)
Secretary's Office, June 20th, 1780.

Sir,

The commissions to private armed vessels of war were heretofore ordered to be attested by the Secretary of Congress. But upon establishing a board of admiralty it was judged proper that they should issue from that board and be attested by their Secretary. Accordingly on the 2d of May last, having made some alterations in the form of the commission, bond and instructions for commanders of private armed vessels of war, Congress passed the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That the board of admiralty be empowered and directed to cause to be printed so many copies of the said forms as they shall judge necessary.

"That the President transmit to the Governors or Presidents of the respective States so many copies of the said forms as the board of admiralty shall advise."

You will therefore please for the future to apply to the Board of Admiralty for the commissions, bonds, &c., which may be wanted in your State, and transmit to the said board the bonds given by the commanders to be lodged in this office.

I have the honor to be Sir,
your obedient hum. serv^t,
CHA. THOMSON.†

Directed,
His Excell^y the President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 394.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 390.

Col. Lud. Weltner to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

An Indian Prisoner was taken about ten Days ago by one of the Inhabitants about ten Miles up the North Branch and conducted to Sunbury Jail. About the same time Mr. Lewis was kill'd in his own House, upon the Road leading from Sunbury to Reading, being about seven Miles from Town. Mr. Currey was shot off his Horse about seven Miles up the North Branch, and his Wife taken prisoner, who was in Company with him, but the first Night being very rainy, took the opportunity of making her Escape and came in the next Morning. There was but two Indians she informs me, that they had used her very Kind. It appears to me that there is not many on our Frontiers at present, as my Scouts in Company with some Volunteers is reconnoitring all the Country for forty Miles up, from the North to the West Branch, and made but little Discoveries. One Officer and five Volunteers went up the Waters of the West Branch better than one hundred Miles; they discovered nothing but old Encampments and old Indian Tracks. I often reconnoitre my Out Posts, and shall go to morrow again to see what Discoveries I can make; five or six Gentlemen in this Town and two of my Officers are commonly my Escorts as Volunteers.

Although I can content myself very well, yet it is highly disagreeable for a man, who has always been generous in his own House, and now when he serves his Country with every Nerve in his Body, must after a Fatigue of two or three Days, and those Gentlemen who suffered the same must then go home without any Refreshment from me, as this Place has not afforded a Drop of good Liquor since the Beginning of March last. This makes a Commanding Officer look little at the Post where he is Kept so poor and other Gentlemen before him were used in another Manner, which I was often obliged to hear here. Your Excellency will excuse my stile—I do not mean to complain (only to acquaint) how I live here and how happy I formerly lived when in the Main Army well esteemed by the Commander in Chief and a Number of valuable officers, and now deprived of their Company and other Benefits of Discipline, which I often think hard; but all this shall not make my Spirits sink without my life sinks with it.

On account of the Provisions I thought proper to acquaint your Excellency that no Returns go to the issueing Store but are sign'd by my Name, and in my Absence by the commanding Officer (excepting the continental Staff.) The Bearer Mr. Rees can give a

better Account of our Situation than I can inform your Excellency in writing.

I am with due Respect
your Excellency's most
obedient and humble Servant,
LUD. WELTNER, Lt. Col.
Command'g G. Regm^t.

Northumb^d, June 20th, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, President, Philadelphia.
℘ favor of Mr. Rees.

Nicholas Lutz to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Reading, 20th June, 1780.

Honor'd Sir,

The great difficulty in procuring Persons to Assist in collecting & driving Cattle &c., without Money to pay them down, has hitherto much retarded me in furnishing the Supplies which I expected to have done by this time, had I Money to pay persons for Assisting, & defraying the Necessary expenses Consequently accruing on that branch of business: which circumstances lays me under the disagreeable necessity of making a second application to you for Cash, or an Order on the County Treasurer for such a Sum as you may think Adequate for the above purposes: without which, I must with Reluctance acquaint you, that I will not be able to procure many more Cattle, nor perhaps get those I already have on hand to Philad^a.

I would be exceeding Glad you could comply with the above request, you will please be so kind as to Honour me with a Line by the return of the Post, or as soon as convenient.

I am Sir,
Your Excellencys
most Obed^t Hum^ble Servant,
NICHOLAS LUTZ.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

Chas. Pettit to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, 20 June, 1780.

Sir,

I have the honor to inclose to you herein, the Draught of Congress on Your Excellency & the Council of Pennsylvania for 250 000 Dollars, on which I am to request your order for payment.

You will observe this Draught is particularly intended to enable Col. John Davis to comply with certain Special Contracts made for the public Service, and I believe orders on the County Treasurers westward of Susquehannah would answer the purpose, particularly those of Cumberland & York.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obed. Servt,
CHA. PETTIT,
A. Q. M. Genl.*

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, June 21, 1780.
Circular.

Sir,
Congress have at different Periods recommended Measures, which they deemed essentially necessary to the public Good.

They now request, of those States which have not made returns to Congress of their Transactions in that respect, the most expeditious Information of the Measures they have taken in Consequence of the several Resolutions, a list of which is annexed to the enclosed Act of the 17th Instant.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
your Excelly's most hble Sert.,
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

Directed,
His Exc'y Presidt Reed.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, June 21, 1780.

Sir,
There are dispersed thro' the States, but principally in this State, many prisoners of war, part of them, both British & German, but more of the latter; had license from this board to work with the farmers and others in the country during the last winter, when it was difficult to maintain them at this post: All these have some time since been ordered into confinement; but the people who have

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XII., p. 396.

had the benefit of their services are unwilling, & delay to deliver them. Other prisoners have escaped from their places of confinement, and are scattered thro' the country, where some of them doubtless mean to fix their abode; others are working along from town to town till they shall find opportunities of getting into New York. Many have very improperly been allowed by the magistrates to take the oaths of allegiance, & others have passports or certificates (some true & some counterfeit) by means of which they are enabled to pursue their designs unmolested.

As your Excellency expressed a readiness to give orders to the lieutenants of the counties to apprehend all such prisoners, we thought it best to communicate the above mentioned facts & circumstances; and to inform you, that there are no prisoners out of confinement, with our consent, except officers on parole—the servants of such officers actually attached to their persons, & for whom the officers have respectively given their paroles. All others, whether they were of Burgoyne's army or absolute prisoners of war, we wish may be taken up and confined in the nearest goals (where these are sufficiently strong) or brought to the New Goal in this city; as shall be most convenient. And your Excellency will greatly oblige us as well as do an important public service, by issuing the necessary orders for that purpose. Any necessary expenses occasioned by the execution of such orders, it appears to us will be a proper charge against the United States.

We have the honour to be,
very respectfully,
your Excellency's
most obedt. Servants,
In behalf & by order of ye board,
TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

Col. Jacob Morgan to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Reading, 21st June, 1780.

Sir,

I received your Excellency's orders of the Day of June for procuring two Volunteers from each Company of Militia to be officered with one Captain two Lieuts. and two Ensigns agreeable to Said order the greater part of the Men are procured with expectation of their being ordered for the defence of the Frontiers, which are at present in a defenceless situation and Hourly exposed to the ravages of the Indians.

On the receipt of your Excellency's second order of the 14th,

Instant I collected those men already inlisted and am exerting myself in having the rest procured, but being made acquainted with their destination's being changed there is great uneasiness amongst them. Numbers of them Living on the Frontiers are anxious to continue for the defence of their property which they consider at present much indangered.

If your Excellency does not think it injurious, I could wish that the original intent (as to the destination of the Troops) may be complied with, as I'm convinced there will be great discontent amongst them, & retard my procuring the residue. But if your Excellency should think proper to have them marched to the army you'll please to inform me whether I am still to comply with that part of the first orders which directs my appointing of officers, as the last orders seem to imply that they are not to be officered in the County.

I am Sir, your Excellencys,
most Humb. and most obet servt.

JACOB MORGAN, Lt. B. County.

Directed,
To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr. President of the Supreme Executive Council Philadelphia.

Instructions to the Agents for the Sale of Confiscated Estates, 1780.

1. You are to inform the Bidders that specie & the State Money issued last March will be taken in payment as such, viz. at the Exchange of 60 for one.

2. These Lands being sold as will to raise Money for the State as to create a Fund for the Support of the University. Three fourths of the Money to be paid according to the Terms of sale, & the Remaining fourth to be left in the Hands of the Purchaser on the following Terms, viz. The Exchange to be fixed as above, & the Interest accruing at 6 ℘ ct. to be a charge on the Land payable in Wheat at Ten Shillings ℘ Bushel, The Wheat to be delivered half yearly at the publick Market Place in Philad. or in Cash at the current Price at the Election of the Trustees of the University. The same subject to be purchased off at any Time after 3 Years & within 10 Years, such Purchaser paying 15 Years purchase Money.

3. The Crops in the Ground not to pass with the Land.

Indorsed,
June 21, 1780.

Navy Board to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Navy Board midl. dists.

Phila. June 21st 1780.

The honorable the commissioners of the Admiralty have directed this board to sell by publick auction five negro Slaves belonging to the continental armed sloop West-Florida. We have therefore to request your excellency will grant permission, and authorize the auctioneer for that purpose.

We are your excellency's,

most obedient servants,

WILLIAM WINDER,
JAMES READ,

Directed

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq. president of the state of Pennsylvania.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, June 21st, 1780.

Whereas Congress did in the Behalf of the United States assure his most Christian Majesty by their act of the 31st of Jan'y last that they wo'd bring into the field 25,000 effective Men exclusive of Officers, & at the same time solicit a naval force to cooperate against the common Enemy. And Whereas advice has been received from the Court of France that his most christian Majesty in Complyance with the solicitations of Congress hath not only directed a considerable naval force to repair to North America, but hath subjoined thereto a respectable Body of Land Forces.

And Whereas Congress in consequence of their Engagements by their Act of Feb'y last did call on the several States to compleat their Quota of Troops to the Establishment mentioned in the said Act,—Which Quota they have since from the Disasters at Charles Town found it necessary to increase, and have accordingly approved the requisitions of their Committee at Head Quarters.—And Whereas none of the States whose Battalions were deficient have yet sent on the Recruits to compleat the same, nor afforded any assurances that the Requisitions of Congress and their Committee will be complied with. And Whereas the Execution of the above Requisitions will be extremely hazardous & expensive unless the further Demands of Congress & their Committee for provision are punctually complied with, therefore,

Resolved, that the said States be requested explicitly and without

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 398.

the least delay, to inform Congress how far they may rely upon their furnishing the several Supplies of Men, Money and provisions called for by Congress or their Committee at Head Quarters.

And Whereas the Legislature of many of the United States are not now convened tho' earnestly requested by Congress to continue their Sessions or to vest in some Persons such Powers as wo'd enable them on the requisition of Congress or their Committee to draw forth the military Resources of the State. And Whereas Congress are not fully informed whether their Magistrates are so empowered.

Resolved, that the supreme executive Magistrate in each State where the Legislature is not convened be requested immediately to inform Congress what Measures they have taken or are empowered to take in Complyance with the above Requisitions of Congress, In order that Congress, whose duty it is, may provide that effectual Measures be taken that every State in the Union contribute their Quota to the common Defence.

Resolved, that the executive Magistrate of every State be requested to correspond weekly with the Committee of Congress at head Quarters, advising them of the Measures actually taken from Time to time in pursuance of the above recited Requisitions of Congress and their Committee.

Extract from the minutes,
CHA. THOMSON Sec'y.*

Directed,
Pennsylvania.

Mons. Holker to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, ye 21st June, 1780.

Sir,

I have the honor of inclosing to your Excellency a Letter I have this moment received from Mr Etheard, Commander in chief of his Majesty's store ships at present in this port—you'll perceive by it the necessity of the measures I took the liberty of Soliciting from your Excellency a few days Since, & without which or some other efficacious remedy, it will be impossible to apply these three vessels to the purposes for which they are reserved. I have only to add that very lately near 20 Sailors have made good their way towards Baltimore & Boston: It is much to be feared that the Remaining few will also effect their escape.

I remain with Respect,
Your Excellency's,
Most obedient & very
humble Servant,
HOLKER.

Directed,
His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqre.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 403.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 397.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Circular.

Philadelphia, June 22, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency will herewith receive an Act of Congress of the 21st Instant, which will no doubt be duly attended to.

Those Parts of the Act in particular that relate to giving Information to Congress and their Committee at Head Quarters, it is most earnestly requested may be attended to with the utmost Expedition & Punctuality.

The Time is come when we may hourly expect the Arrival of the Forces of our Ally, and the Plan of Operation ought to be completely formed and ready to be communicated upon their Arrival, which cannot be done for want of proper & certain Information of the Number of Forces, Quantity of Supplies, &c., which the States will furnish.

Under these Circumstances you will easily perceive that Congress and the Commander in Chief are placed in a most painful Situation, and that the Interest, Honour & Safety of the States are too much affected to admit of the least Delay or Neglect of any & every Exertion which the present Situation of our affairs demand.

I have the honor to be
with the highest respect,
your Excellency's most obedt servant,
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

—

June 23.

Since writing the foregoing I have received a Letter from his Excellency General Washington, an Extract of which is enclosed, together with an Act of Congress of this Day, by which you will be further informed of the pressing Necessity of immediately forwarding on the Supplies of Men & Provisions with the utmost Expedition, and the repeated request of Congress to transmit to them & their Committee at Head Quarters, the Proceedings of the State over which you have the honor to preside, in such manner that the Commander in Chief may rely & be enabled to regulate his future Operations thereon.

I have the honor to be
with the highest Esteem,
your Excellency's humble Servant,
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

Directed,
His Excy President Reed.

Genl. H. Knox to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Trenton, 22d June, 1780.

Dear Sir,

His Excellency General Washington has dispatched me to this place in order to have the flour here instantly forwarded on to West Point. He informed me that he had requested of your Excellency an immediate supply of 250 teams, and desired me on my arrival here to send an express to you, requsting to know when they can be furnished. It is impossible to say how much the teams are wanted. The enemy threaten West Point, and much is to be feared in this moment of our impotence for the safety of that post, except it shall have an ample supply of provision previous to its investiture. The General with his small army assumes a position, dangerous enough if the enemy comprehend our strength, in order to cover the transportation of the flour. The probable, nay almost certain, movements of the enemy up the North River, or against him, will make him quit it in four or five days, during which time it is of infinite consequence to have the flour forwarded. Every thing is done here and in the neighbouring counties of this State for this purpose,—but all will be in vain, except we derive assistance from Pennsylvania. If possible, my dear Sir, let us have 200 or 250 teams to load at this place, in one, two, three, and not exceeding four days from this time.

I am dear sir
with great respect,
Your Excellency's most
Obedient Humble Servt,
H. KNOX.*

Directed,
His Excellency President Reed.

Col. John Piper to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Huntingdon, June 22d, 1780.

Sir,

The Situation of the Frontier Inhabitants must be my Apology for troubling you upon this Occasion. One of our greatest Difficulties at present arises from our Want of a proper Supply of Provisions and Horses to transport Provisions to our frontier Garrisons. Mr. Brown has been pleased to make us an Offer of some Flower that he has on hand for our present supply, provided we can furnish Horses to carry it off. I would therefore earnestly request you to

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 398.

consider our present Situation, and, if possible, furnish us with about six good Horses and one Driver, which, with four Horses we already have, I apprehend might be sufficient for the present. Being well assured of your good Disposition and Readiness to do every Thing in your Power for our Relief I shall not further urge, but request that if the Horses can be obtained you'll please to order them to the Care of Mr. Francis Cluggage at this Place, who I am confidenft will take proper Care of them, and will punctually obey your Directions from Time to Time. In Hopes you'll please to consider our present Situation and grant us a speedy Relief,

I am Sir with great Respect,
your most obedient and
Very humble Servant,
JOHN PIPER.

Copy.

P. S. I would further Request that you would please to order Mr. Cluggage to procure a Quantity of Forage for the Supply of the public Horses that are frequently under the Necessity of calling at this Post.

I am, J. P.

Pres. Reed to Mr. Holker, 1780.

Sir,

I took an early Opp^y to communicate to the Council your Request touching the French Sailors*—The urgent Business of the Army prevented any Act being passed till this morning—the Council ever desirous to promote the Interest of his most Christian Majesty & his Subjects having taken it up have agreed to the inclosed Resolves—which we hope will prove both satisfactory & effectual.

The Council has also taken into Consideration the Representation made by Mr. Slough of his Difficulties in passing the State Money. And tho we have Reason to believe there has not been all the Disposition or Exertion which in such Case could be wished, we cannot think it consistent with the Honour of the State that it should be considered as an Embarrassm^t to an Individual, & therefore it will be quite agreeable to us to receive it whenever you please & cancel the Instrument—You will please so far as you judge necessary to communicate to the Minister the farther Progress of this Transaction, with our Sence of his kind Intentions manifested on this Occasion.

I am Sir,
your Obed. & very
Hbbl. Serv.

Indorsed,
1780, June 22^d, To Honble Mr. Holker, Consul of France.

* See page 347.

Pres. Reed to Delegates in Congress, 1780.

Gentlemen,

The Commander in Chief has called upon us in the most pressing Manner for 250 Teams to be immediately forwarded into New Jersey with which we are determined to comply with all possible Expedition. But when we reflect upon the trifling Sum allowed by the United States compared with the necessary & unavoidable Expence which attends this Service we cannot wonder at the Reluctance of the People to enter into it. The present Pay is not more than 6s. 8d. Specie ℔ Day, whereas heretofore when there was a greater Plenty of Wagons & Labour & Forage much cheaper, the Rate was 2 Dollars ℔ Day. The manifest Injustice of the Price will also be more striking as the Agents under Monsr de Cornay now offer one third more than the stated Price allowed by Congress, & yet have made little Progress.

We would also wish you to make a Seasonable Application to Congress that a Number of Arms may be supplied the Militia who are ordered to be in Readiness to join Gen. Washington in Case of Necessity. There is a peculiar Justice & Propriety in our Request as the United States have availed themselves at all Times of our Arms by leaving them at Camp pursuant to the Directions of the Commander in Chief & delivering them out here on Request—Other States who have not the same Plea have, as we are informed, been supplied out of the Continental Stock, and it will be of little Service to take Men to the Field without Arms.—You will therefore take a suitable Occasion to urge these Points as of indispensable Necessity to the publick Service.

I am, Gentlemen, most respectfully

your Obed Hbbl. Serv.

Indorsed,

1780, June 23rd, Honble the Delegates of P^a, in Congress.

Col. Saml. J. Atlee to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lancaster, June 23d, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellencys Letter of the 20th I have received, and hope youll credit me when I assure you I am exerting my utmost abilities for the forwarding the Recruits to you, The men are easily procured here, if the provision cou'd be as easily made in the several Townships for their pay.

I hope to be able by sunday morning to send off at least 100 good men, the rest shall be sent off as fast as they arrive.

It gives me real pain to hear of our good Generals distressed

situation, we were in anctious expectation of the arrival of the Fleet of France, which I hope brings him a Reinforcement to thwart the intentions of Sr Harry.

I am your Excellencys
most obt and most Hble Servt,
SAM. J. ATLEE.

Directed,
On publick Service
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, June 23, 1780.

A Letter of 20 from Genl Washington was read, Ordered, That an extract thereof be sent by express to each of the states from Newhampshire to Maryland, inclusive, and that the executive powers be most earnestly requested to forward on the supplies of men & provisions with the utmost expedition, and transmit to Congress and the committee at head quarters an account of the proceedings of their respective states on which the commander in chief can rely and by which he may be enabled to regulate his future operations.

Extract from the minutes,
CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Resolution of General Assembly of Virginia, 1780.

In the House of Delegates,
June the 23d, 1780.

The General Assembly of Virginia have had under their consideration the agreement entered into between the Commissioners of this Commonwealth and those of Pennsylvania, at Baltimore, on the thirty first day of August, in the year 1779, respecting the disputed territory and boundary lines between two states, together with the papers and proceedings thereupon; and altho' the General Assembly of Virginia are far from thinking the reasoning of Pennsylvania Commissioners in support of their claim conclusive, or that this Commonwealth is bound by the agency of Commissioners, whose powers were restrained to an agreement for ascertaining boundaries to be referred to their respective assemblies for their ratification or rejection; yet actuated by the same principles and motives which induced the Convention of Virginia, in that act which formed our new Government, to make a cession and release of the territory con-

tained within their respective charters to the neighbouring states, to promote the common cause of America; to prevent, as far as in their power, future dispute and animosity, and to prove the sincerity of their professions and desire to cultivate and maintain the most cordial harmony with their sister State of Pensylvania, united with us by the most sacred ties, in the defence of our common rights and liberty, the General Assembly of Virginia are willing to ratify the aforesaid agreement, on the Conditions expressed in the following resolve, corresponding with the reservation in their offer of December the 18th, 1776.

Resolved, therefore, that the agreement made on the 31st day of August, 1779, between James Madison and Robert Andrews, Commissioners for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and George Bryan, John Ewing and David Rittenhouse, Commissioners for the Commonwealth of Pensylvania, be ratified and finally confirmed, to wit., that the line commonly called Mason's and Dixon's line be extended due west five degrees of longitude, to be computed from the river Delaware, for the southern boundary of Pensylvania and that a meridian drawn from the western extremity thereof to the northern limits of the said States respectively, be the western boundary of Pensylvania forever, On Condition that the private property and rights of all persons acquired under, founded on, or recognized by the laws of either Country previous to the date hereof be saved and confirmed to them, altho' they should be found to fall within the other, and that in the decision of disputes thereupon preference shall be given to the elder or prior right which ever of the said states the same shall have been acquired under, such persons paying within whose boundary their lands shall be included the same purchase or consideration money which would have been due from them to the state under which they claimed the right; and where any such purchase or consideration money hath, since the declaration of American Independence been received by either state for lands which according to the before recited agreement shall fall within the territory of the other the same shall be reciprocally refunded and repaid, and that the inhabitants of the disputed territory, now ceded to the State of Pensylvania, shall not before the first day of December, in the present year, be subject to the payment of any tax, nor at any time to the payment of arrears of taxes or impositions heretofore laid by either state.

Resolved, that upon the acceptance and full ratification of this condition and agreement on the part of the Commonwealth of Pensylvania, the Governour be empowered with the advice of the Council to appoint two Commissioners on behalf of this Commonwealth, in conjunction with Commissioners to be appointed by the Commonwealth of Pensylvania, to extend the line commonly called Mason's and Dixon's line five degrees of longitude from Delaware River, as aforesaid, and from the western termination thereof to run and mark a meridian line to the Ohio River, which is as far as the General

Assembly conceive the same can at present be extended and marked without danger of umbrage to the Indians; giving to the said Commissioners, on the part of Virginia, such instructions therein as the advice of the Council shall judge proper.

Teste. JOHN BECKLEY, C. h. d.
A Copy. JOHN BECKLEY, C. h. d.

1780, July 1st, agreed to by the Senate.

WILL. DREW, C. S.

Indorsed,

1780. Received August 4th, Resolution of the Virginia Assembly respecting the disputed boundary with Pensylvania. 23d June, 1780. Sept. 28d, 1780. Agreed to by the Assembly of Pennsa.

Governor Lee of Maryland to Pres. Reed, 1780.

In Council, Annapolis, 23d June, 1780.

Sir,

We received your favor of the 16th, and have laid it, with the Resolution of your Excellency & Council, before the General Assembly. As soon as the result of their deliberation thereon is made known to us we shall communicate it to your Excellency. We are sensible that your design, in laying the Embargo, may be frustrated, unless a similar Resolution is adopted by this State, and therefore we should not have hesitated in the Recess of the Assembly to have imposed such a Restriction as would have prevented the evil suggested in your Letter.

Nothing has a stronger Tendency to preserve that Harmony, so desirable between our States, as mutual Endeavours to facilitate the Execution of Measures, concerted by either, for the General good, and being under that impression, we shall, on every occasion, chearfully co-operate with your Board in furthering them.

We are, with perfect respect & Esteem,

Your Excelly's mo. obedt. & mo. H'ble Servt.,

THO. SIM LEE.*

Directed,

His Exc'y, Jos. Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 400.

COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS IN CAMP TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Circular.

Morris Town, June 23d, 1780.

Sir,

Impressed with the necessity of giving you the earliest information of every important occurrance. We therefore inclose you a copy of a letter from the Commander in Chief this moment received.

From the accumulated distresses of our Army which we are daily spectators of—From the jeopardy we have twice seen them in—& from the fatal consequences that must have resulted from a defeat (which would inevitably have been the Consequence, had the enemy at first, and still will be, should they even now pursue their object) We are constrained, again to call on you in the most pressing manner to forward your quota of men and supplies agreeable to our estimate of the 2d Instant & prevent the total Sacrifice of the few brave and intrepid spirits that at present compose our army and avoid the indelible stain that must consequently be fixed on these States, should such an event take place. (Thus far Circular.)

That part of the Generals Letter respecting the state of the stores here, is a matter of such pressing necessity, that we conceive it to be our duty to give the earliest attention to it. The situation of the magazines at this post, is truly deplorable, the enemy are certainly pushing at them, and we are in no condition to move them for want of teams, if they do not effect their purpose at this time, it is evident they mean to persist untill the situation of our affairs renders it necessary for the remains of our Army to move from hence, when there will be no impediment to the execution of their plan. We hope therefore Sir, you will enable the officers of the Department to improve this interval so as to effect their removal to a place of greater safety by having the teams which are requested of your state immediately sent forward.

We have the honor to be

With the highest respect & Esteem,

Your Excellency's

Most Obt Hum. Servt,

JNo MATHEWS,

NATH. PEABODY.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

Gen. Washington to Committee of Congress, 1780.

Head Quarters, Rockaway, June 23d, 1780.

Gentlemen,

The enemy are now in full force bending their march towards Morris Town and by my last advices had advanced beyond Springfield. They were vigourously opposed by our advanced Corps; But what could the valour of a handful do against so infinite a superiority of numbers. The enemy can effect any particular object they may attempt. Besides the Army they can have no other in the State than our Stores. As we cannot defend them we must endeavour to remove them. I am so entirely engaged in attention to our military operations that I must intreat you to write to the executive of Pensylva and Jersey pressing them to bring out all the Waggons they can to our relief, an application has been already made to Pensylva for two hundred & fifty Waggons—these ought to be instantly furnished.

But we do not know what may be the ultimate designs of the enemy—all we know is that they are very strong and that we are very weak. I beg leave to recommend that the States may be again called upon to redouble their exertions to comply with the demands that have been already made upon them. It is essential to our immediate safety to say nothing of the expected Co-operation. If she means to be free this is the moment for America to exert herself.

With every sentiment of Esteem,

I have the honor to be Gentlemen,

Your Most Hble Sev.,

Gy WASHINGTON,

Directed,

Honble Committee of Co-operation.

Col. Joseph Hart to Pres. Reed, 1780.

June ye 23d, 1780.

Hon'd Sir,

Councils Letter of the 20th came safe to hand last Evening; and that nothing might be wanting on my part have sent Expresses to the Sub Lieutenants, 'tho I make no doubt but that they were hastening on the Business as fast as possible. I suppose Col. Kachlines men are in the Barracks before now, as he told me they were to March last Thursday. I cannot say so much of Col. Wall or Anderson, but think they must be well forward. I have got all my Men but one, and send a part down this Day. It realy is very hard getting the men to Inlist, and when Inlisted, almost as hard to get

them away. I will however if Possible have the remainder of mine down in the Beginning of next Week; and sooner I cannot, but I have not to add more than I am,

Your Excelies
most Obt. Hmble Servt,
JOSEPH HART.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council &c.

NICHOLAS LUTZ TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Reading, 24th June, 1780.

Sir,

I rec'd your Excellencys favour of the 21st Inst as also an Order on the County Treasurer for One Thousand Pounds. I shall decline purchasing Flesh agreeable to your Orders,—have sent all the Cattle & Sheep I had on hand to Philada as I had agreed with the Hands to take them there before I recd your Excellencys Orders of Sending them to Camp.

I have a few Sheep & one Ox which is not yet brought in, which the Issuing Commissary at this Post presses me to deliver him, as the provisions are Nigh out, & a Number of Prisoners & Marching Parties of our own Troops must be supplied: If you give me Orders, I shall deliver them according to his request & endeavour to Supply him further.

I shall do every thing in my Power to procure the Flour you have Ordered, but I must acquaint you that Wheat is Scarcer than I expected, and am in some doubt I will not be able to furnish that Quantity before Harvest.

I am Sir,
Your Excellency's Most Obedient
Humble Servant,
NICHOLAS LUTZ.

Directed,

(Public Service)

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philada.

Col. L. Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Gentlemen:

The number of recruits encreasing I thought it proper to enquire on the parade this morning what number was ready to go to camp & found only about 60, all of Bucks & Philadelphia counties, none of the city being yet setled with, judging it highly improper to keep them longer in this place I have ordered Capt McElhalton & a subaltern of the Invalids to conduct them to the army, possibly before they set out the number may be encreased from the Country. The Capt will wait on you to receive any orders you may judge necessary.

Permit me to assure you that I am with respect,

Gentlemen your most obed. Servt

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Directed,

To his Excellency the President & Honle Executive Council.

Col. Lewis Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sr,

I am favoured with your Excellencies letter of this day with the book which is preparing for the purpose intended & shall be compleated with all possible dispatch.

By the wording of the attestation it appears as if a particular one was to be drawn out for each man which, considering the number, will take up much time & prevent the mens setting out for a day or two, I beg your opinion whether it would not answer the purpose to have the attestation copied into the book in a form less particular, as I having enlisted into the Corps of Pensylvania volunteers do swear &c., and underneath—We who have subscribed our names, or made our marks in this & the following pages have sworn or affirmed to the above attestation.

A. B. of 1st Bat. of Bucks County each page to be certified at bottom by the Justice.

I am with respect,

Your Excellencies

most obed Servt

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

24 June, 1780.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

Gen. H. Knox to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Trenton, 27 June, 1780.

My dear Sir,

From the exertions that have been made, I am in hopes that all the flour at this place will be in motion towards New Windsor before to-morrow night. The Country is animated, and turn out their teams with great spirit—and now is the time to improve it, by supplying flour to be formed into a magazine above our posts in the highlands. This hint will be a sufficient inducement to your Excellency, to use your influence that all the flour which can be procured be forwarded on instantly to this place. If the spirit shall continue, and I believe it will, we may, by managing it properly, be able to form such a magazine on the North River as will place us beyond feeling pinching hunger from the failure of a brigade of teams, and which will greatly accelerate the proposed operations of the campaign.

From the information of Col. Cox of a conversation he had with your Excellency, and the Executive Council, respecting the pay of the waggons which might be drawn forth as part of the quota of Pennsylvania, we were induced to promise that the hire of the waggons which should be procured by us in Bucks County on the present occasion, and which we presumed would be reckoned as part of the State's quota, should be paid immediately by John Oliver Esqr., at Bristol, at the rates I informed you yesterday. Col. Cox and myself therefore shall be under great obligations to your Excellency and the Executive Council to order as much of the new state money to be lodged in the hands of said Mr Oliver as the amount of the estimate of the hire of the said waggons, which estimate Col. Cox will transmit to your Excellency as soon as he shall obtain the number that are employed.

I have the honor Sir,

to be with great Respect,

Your Excellency's

most Obedient

Humble Servant

H. KNOX.

Directed,

His Excellency, President Reed.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 400.

Wm. Lane to Council, 1780.

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire President to the Supreme Executive Council.

Gentlemen,

Having Engaged with Mr. Peter Deheaven to Stock Thirty Muskets in July 1777 he the Said Mr. Deheaven being Imployed by the State & having the Direction of the factory at French Creek, Having finished Sixteen of the above Muskits & Delivered them to him at French Creek Affs'd. Intending to Carry the Remainder there as soon as finished, but before I got the Remaining Fourteen done Mr. Deheaven Affs'd, had moved to Humels Town near to Harrises Ferry, & Intended Carrying them there to him, General Waynes Division having moved to the Trapp Close to where your Petitioner lived from the Action at the Peoley Capt'n. Thomas Church hearing your Petitioner had Publick Muskits Stocking for Mr. Deheaven Said Cap'tn Church then Comm'dng the 5th, Pennsylv'a Reg't. Came to me & desired that I should Deliver to him the Publick Muskits which I had stocked he told me that A number of the men of that Reg't had lost their Arms in ye Action Affs'd & he Expected the Reg't would be called in action before he Could get the men Armed Elsewhere, your Petitioner told Cap'tn Church he was to Deliver Said Muskits to Mr. Deheaven or his Order, he said he would take them as the Service then Required them much at that time, & Sent. A Serj. and six men & took them leaving a Receipt for the same which I inclose.

Some Short time after I applyed to Mr Peter Deheaven for Pay for Stocking the thirty Muskits Affs'd. Which he Refused to Pay for any but the Sixteen which he Rec'd I Shewed the Receipt got from Captain Church he said your Petitioner had no Right to let Captain Church take the Remaining Fourteen, I likewise told him Capt'n Church took them without my leave, he said I should furnish Fourteen in their Place as he was Accountable for them, your Petitioner was Oblight to go & buy Fourteen Muskit Barrels & Locks & Stock & Mount them, and Delivered them to Mr. Peter Deheaven Affs'd. & your Petitioner never has Rec'd any satisfaction from any Person what Ever for the Affs'd Fourteen Muskits, the Value of them being £3 0 0 Each which makes £42 0 0 Specie.

May it therefore Please your Honours to grant your Petitioner Pay for the Affs'd. Fourteen Muskits and shall Ever Pray.

June ye 25th, 1780.

WILLIAM LANE.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., Commander in Chief of Militia & Navy of the State of Pennsylva.

Gen. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Head Quarters Whippeny near Morris Town 25th June, 1780.
Dear Sir,

I have been honored with your Excellency's favor of the 20th and 22d instant. I am exceedingly sorry to find you express a doubt of being able immediately to procure the number of 250 Waggons in the State of Pennsylvania, if we should be disappointed in that quarter I know not where we are to apply. The Quarter Master General has, as you observe, a considerable number of Waggons laying idle for want of Horses, could you procure a sufficiency of them, to put these Waggons in motion, it would answer a very valuable purpose —that of moving the Baggage and necessary Stores of the Army, which are now scattered in a most inconvenient manner upon the whole communication—subject to loss and peculation, and making an amazing draft from the strength of the Army, as an extra number of Guards must be left to take care of them.

The Enemy abandoned this State the night before last. They advanced, in the course of the day, in very considerable force as far as Springfield, which they burnt intirely (two Houses excepted) with several buildings in the neighbourhood. They were warmly opposed in their progress, by the advanced troops under the command of General Greene. This change of position will render the service of the Philad^a. Troop of Light Dragoons unnecessary at this juncture. Hearing they were upon their march, I yesterday desired Col^o Moylan to meet them, with my thanks for their ready compliance with my request, and to inform them that there was no occasion for them to come forward.

I very much admire the patriotic Spirit of the Ladies of Philad^a, and shall with great pleasure give them my advice, as to the application of their benevolent and generous donation to the Soldiers of the Army. Altho' the terms of the association seem in some measure to preclude the purchase of any article, which the public is bound to find, I would, nevertheless, recommend a provision of shirts in preference to any thing else, in case the fund should amount to a sum equivalent to a supply of eight or ten thousand. The Soldiery are exceedingly in want of them, and the public have never, for several years past, been able to procure a sufficient quantity to make them comfortable. They are besides more capable of an equal and satisfactory distribution then almost any other Article. Should the fund fall short of a supply of the number of Shirts, I have mentioned perhaps there could be no better application of the money, than laying it out in the purchase of refreshments for the Hospitals. These are my Ideas at present. When I have the pleasure of hearing more particularly from M^r. Reed, I shall probably be able to form a more complete opinion.

I shall agreeable to your Excellency's request, send down a few

Officers to take charge of, and bring forward the Drafts. As to the business of recruiting by voluntary inlistments, you may be assured that its operation, if attended with tolerable success in the end, will be too slow to answer our present purposes. I would therefore most earnestly recommend to you, to place no dependance upon any such measure, but, by an immediate augmentation of Drafts, supply the Men required from Pennsylvania by the Committee of Congress. They make so considerable a part of the force estimated as necessary to give a probability of certainty to our expected operations, that they cannot be dispensed with.

Be kind enough to deliver or forward the inclosed to Mrs. Washington. I am infinitely obliged to your Excellency and to Mrs. Reed for your polite attention to her.

I have the honor to be
with the greatest Regard Dear Sir
ye most ob't and h'ble Servt.
G°. WASHINGTON.

Directed,
Gov. Reed.

PHILIP MARSTELLER TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Lebanon, June 25th, 1780.

Sr,

Your Excellencies favor of the 19th by Capt Weiser came duly to hand, and acknowledge the receipt of an Order of Council for £6372. From the time I started the other drove of Cattle until your favor came to hand, I had purchased Forty odd Heads more, which I shall cause to be driven for Philad° on Wednesday next, and do now according to direction Cease making any further Purchases.

I thank the Honourable Council for their appointmt as Pay Master, which appointt came to my Hands Yesterday.

My opinion as to the price of Flour and Wheat is, That Flour may be had from 20s. to 22s. 6, and Wheat at 7s. 6, hard money, which prices, I think, will purchase all the Grain & Flouer which can be spared in the County, and in Continental Money it will at present be near 60 Prices, but if the Taxes and other Public Monies be collected with Spirit, it will naturally lower the Continental price. I have heard a gt say that if he had Specie he would get Wheat from 6s. 9 to 7s., but I have tho much reason to differ with him in opinion, and am well assured it cannot be made a General & Currant price. As to the quantity which might be depended on from this County is a question to which I can give no positive answer, but believe that some Flouer, and 4 or 5 thousand Bushels of Wheat may be readily purchased in this part of the Country,

especially for Specia. And if your Excellency in your Question includes the Crop now in the Fields, I will venture to say that a very large quantity of Wheat may be had, provided the Person intrusted with the management is a man of Business and Industry, for our Crops are very pleasing, and if nothing further happens to destroy them it will be a year of plenty.

I would beg leave to give it as my Opinion that it would be Cheapest to purchase the Wheat and not the manufactured Flouer, for there is never a proper allowance made for the Value of the Offals, which is of great use for Horse food, and might be the saving of many pounds. And if the whole of the Business be intrusted to one Man only, he being a man of Character, Honesty, Industry and Frugality, I make no doubt but money may be saved; for Ambition and Self Interest is to often dear paid for in the Transaction of public Business. As your Excellency wants my opinion fully upon the Subject I make free to add the above Hints. Col. Kucher gives his best Complym^ts to your Excellency, and begs the Commissions for the Officers of the 2d Batl. of militia may be sent by the bearer. The Voluntiers are set out from this end of the County. I am anxious for the news of the Jersies, and dread the Consequence. The bearer is Waiting, therefore must Conclude by reminding your Excellency of my readiness to serve my Country to the best of my weak abilities.

After which I crave the Honor of Subscribing my self

Your Excellencies most Obed^t

and Very Hum^l Servt,

P. MARSTELLER.

Directed,

Public service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, Presid^t of the Sup^r Exe^t Council of Pennsylv^a.

☞ Express.

Col. Lewis Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Gentlemen,

I am sorry to inform you that of 123 volunteers that were in this city yesterday, I could not, with my utmost exertions send off more than 42 in the afternoon. As it is unnecessary for two officers to march with that nnmber I have directed Lieut. Honeyman to remain in Trenton, as I propose sending to him by every continental shallop that goes up such men as may be ready, that he may, when a sufficient number are collected, march them to camp.

I endeavoured to have the volunteers from the city sworn this

morning & their Descriptions entered in the book, but they would not do either 'till fully settled with.

Inclosed is a copy of my instructions to Capt McElhatton, which I send for the inspection of the Council that, in case any alterations are thought requisite, I may be favoured with directions.

As 6 or 7 of the had, soon after their coming here, obtained permission to return home in order to receive their money & get cloths, under a promise specified in the furloff to meet the party at Trenton this day. I have furnished Capt. McElhatton with proper papers for their being sworn & described.

Permit me to assure you that

I am with respect, Gentlemen,
Your most obedt Servant,
LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

26 June, 1780.

Instructions for Capt. McElhatton, 1780.

Philadelphia, 25th June, 1780.

Instructions For Captn McElhatton of the Invalid Regt.

You are to embark on board the Shallop provided for the purpose with Lt Honeyman and such recruits for the Pensilvania line as shall be ready to go, a list of which will be given you; with these you are to proceed up the river to Trenton, and there land the men.

Some men who obtained furloughs are to meet you at Trenton; these you will have attested before a magistrate agreeable to the form given you, each man to sign the paper, and after his name the county and Battalion must be specified.

You will be furnished with another paper properly column'd and headed in which you must insert a description of each of these men joining you at Trenton.

The men being furnished with rations only for this day and to morrow, you are to draw a necessary supply from the Commissary at Trenton and such other post as may be requisite.

Making as little delay as possible at Trenton, you are to proceed and join the Pensilvania Line wherever it may be, shewing your Instructions to and receiving informations from such Generals or other officers as may be on your march.

When Joined the Pensilvania line you are to deliver the men to Genl St. Clair, or Officer Commanding, and take proper Receipts.

When you have executed these orders you & Lt Honeyman are to Return to this city or where else the Regt may be.

The number of men being greatly short of what I expected, Lt Honeyman must remain in Trenton till I send another party.

Directed,

To his Excellency the President & Honle Executive Council of the State.

Wm. Scott to Pres. Reed, 1780.

York, June 26th, 1780.

Sir,

I Received your Excellencys instructions on the 5th instant and immediately proceeded to execute the same; and had great dificualty at first setting out to pass the new Money but am now in hopes it will pass Currant. I have the Promise of five or six hundred Barrels of Flour, Forage is no so Plenty. I spared no pains in search of Meat, and have got above one hundred head of sheep, half of which are for Certificates; Beef is very scearse—the bearer, Mr. Armor, will deliver you an Order for three thousand six hundred & seventy six Pounds seventeen shillings & six pence for a flock of sheep which I Purchased of two young Men, and as they were in great want of the money a gentle Man in Town (Mr. Wm. Alexander) was kind enough to advance that sum and takes this opertunity of sending, which if answer[d] will greatly Oblidge.

I am at a loss how to draw Orders on Council for the People who deliver me such numbers of Cattle or Sheep as entitles them to orders for their money, wou'd thank your Excel[y] for a few lines of directions and whether I'm to Purchase Whiskey or not. We hope in few days to have our Militia aranged, and have made considerable Progress in Procureing our Volunteers.

I have the Honour to be
your Excellency's Obedient
Humble serv[t],
W[m] SCOTT.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, President in Council.

℞ Mr. Armor.

Mons. Holker to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, y[e] 26th June, 1780.

Sir,

I have the honor of remonstrating to your Excellency that since the departure of W[m] Turnbull, Esq[re], merchant of this City, into whose hands & to whose care the immediate negotiation & management of all affairs respecting the service of the marine of his most christian majesty has been entrusted by me with the approbation of his Excellency the minister plenipotentiary, the said affairs are become so intricate & so embarrassing, that I cannot proceed therein without Exposing those very important concerns to utter confusion,

& perhaps to some fatal consequences: all settlements of accounts are at a stop; the sale of my Bills on france is committed to the care of persons much less capable of transacting business of this consequence, & on whose prudence I cannot place sufficient confidence & Reliance; it is for these reasons, though I applaud to Mr Turnbull's Zeal for the welfare of his country, & must acknowledge that his obligations to the public were previous to those contracted on behalf of the service of his majesty, yet I think myself bound to request the interference of your Excellency & the Supreme Executive Council, in order that this Gentleman may be recalled to a station where his activity & intelligence will be much more usefull to ye General cause & the public of america than his personal Exertions in the american Army; the more So as it may be the case that I shall be called upon to attend personally to his majesty's naval forces when arrived on the Shores of this continent.

I trust your Excellency & Council will condescend to excuse this application, & will vouchsafe to take the measures which may be necessary to procure me a speedy relief, & which I cannot but beg leave to commit to their Judgment, Prudence & benevolence.

I Remain with Respect,

Sir, your Excellency's

most obedient & very

humble servant,

HOLKER.*

His Excellency Jh Reed, Esqre, Presdt of the State.

Mons. Holker to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, ye 26th June, 1780.

Sir,

It is with the greatest satisfaction that I acknowledge the receipt of the letter with which your Excellency honored me on ye 22d instant; the resolve of the honorable supreme executive council respecting French Seamen affords an additional proof of the support granted to his majesty's officers in the Execution of their duties. I shall readily seize every opportunity of testifying my sense thereof, and of the attention with which your Excellency has allways been pleased to favor my remonstrances to this purpose.

The day after I had the honor of communicating to you, sir, the objections made to the state money by the inhabitants of Lancaster County to mr. Slough, who appears by all I can learn to have exerted himself to the best of his abilities in order to give it currency, & who's success in procuring the important articles entrusted to his

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 442.

care would have been fully Effectual, could he have been able to Establish this desirable object, I directed the remainder of the money on hand to be forwarded to him, informing him that I had no other resource for the present in addition to the small quantity of continental & hard money, which was sent at the same time, he was informed of all the steps that had been taken in order to ensure the Circulation of the said state money, every additional and desirable security was offered to promote it, & he was warned, that if it did not become current, we should probably fall into an Embarrassing dilemma which might have some very fatal consequences.

I however expect soon to hear from mr. Slough, & in consequence of your Excellency's observations if necessary, I shall direct him to forward here immediately all the monies he may have by him unappropriated, in case he has not a fair prospect of Employing it forthwith, & I shall have the same reposited in the hands of the Treasurer of the state.

I shall not fail communicating to his Excellency the minister plenipotentiary that part of your letter which relates to him.

I Remain with due Consideration,

Sir, your most obedient &

very humble servant,

HOLKER.*

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed.

Pres. Reed to Nicholas Lutz, 1780.

Sir,

In Answer to your Letter of the 21st Inst. recd. inform you that the Flesh purchased on this Occasion is by no Means to be considered as a Part of the supplies called for from this State, & which the Commissry. cannot purchase. The special Exigence of the army occasioned a special Exertion & we cannot consent to have any Part of it diverted to any other Purpose. If the Commissy. of Reading is disposed to purchase any of the Cattle or Sheep on Hand & which it may not be worth while to drive down you may let him have them in Preference to any other Purchaser, but it is not our Intent to have our Commissioners considered as purchasing Commissaries for the Posts in the County. Nor are you on any Occasion to deliver the issuing Commissary any Article purchased by you except by our special Direction.

You will now have your whole attention engaged in the Purchase of Flour & short Forage, & in which I most earnestly request you to exert yourself. The season of the Year, & the supply already pro-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 402.

cured has made us easy on the score of Flesh But in the article of Flour we are still much unprovided, the State Money having been received here at the sale of confiscated Estates, & in Taxes has made it very current, & you may be quite satisfied that it will receive full Confidence & Currency. Col. Marsteller writes me from Lancaster County That he thinks good Flour may be procured for Three Dollar ℔ Ct. But we must desire you to inform us from Time to Time what Progress you make in the articles of Flour & Forage as we are daily urged on these subjects by Congress & the General.

I am Sir, Yours.

Indorsed,
June 26, 1780.

PRES. REED TO CHEVALIER DE LA LUZERNE, 1780.

Sir,

I have the Honour of inclosing your Excell^y a Passport for Gregory West, the English Prisoner referred to in your Excell^y Favour of yesterday. As we find many inconveniences in permitting British Prisoners to continue in this City, I beg Leave to express my Desire that he would not remain here longer than is absolutely necessary.

I have the Honour to be,
with great Respect & Regard,
Sir, Your Excell^y most
obed. & very Hbbl. Servt.*

Indorsed,
June 27, 1780.

COL. JACOB MORGAN TO MAJOR EDW. SCULL, 1780.

Reading, 27th June. 1780.

Sir,

Inclosed we send you the Muster Roll of the Men that Marched under your Command to Philadelphia, together with Certified Copies of their Inlistments. Please enquire of Secretary Matlack whether David Morgan is appointed for one of the Sub Lieu^ts for Berks County—if he is, be pleased to bring his commission if ready.

I am, Sir, your Hum. Servt.,
JACOB MORGAN, L. B. C.

Directed,
To Major Edwd Scull, Philadelphia.

* See Col Rec., Vol. XII., p. 402.

Col. Jacob Morgan to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Reading, 27th June, 1780.

Sir,

I sent to Phila^a yesterday under the Command of Major Ed^d Scull fifty two Volunteers raised in the County of Berks, together with a Muster Roll and Certified Copies of their Inlistments, being all that we could get ready, we could not get them attested without loss of time, the remainder I expect will be got ready to march by Monday next.

I am Sir

your Excellency's most

obedient Hum. Ser^t,

JACOB MORGAN, L. B. C.

P. S. The Men we sent down have all been paid their full Bounty for Inlisting.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President for the Supreme Executive Council Philadelphia.

Col. Sam. Hunter to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sunbury, 27th June, 1780.

Sir,

Your favour Dated this month withe Commissions for the Volintier Company of this County, came safe to hand, I have filled up the Captainsey for John Dougherty but no other Officers as yet, as we have only twenty five men that can be Raised agreeable to the leat act pass'd for Each Company to find two men, those men I have on duty, as no Others has Arrived from any of the interiour Countys to Reinforce us, so that we are Obliged to do all we can for our own Preservation, and indeed the People of this County has beheaved on this Occasion as well as many others with spirit, suppose they are Very much Reduced Boath in numbers and otherwise, yet they still keep out scouting Partys on the Frontiers and sometimes is joined by some of Col^l Weltner's Regiment.

There has been several partys has made Attempts to get Scalps or Prisoners Agreeable to the Proclamation but has Returned without Success in that way, suppose they discovered several Indian tracts but could not make out which way they were bound, there has been no murders Commited since ye 12th Ins^t that there was one man Killed and his son taken Prisoner about seven miles from this on the Reading Road, the same day there was an Indian man came to the field where one Thomas Bowyer and some of his family was Working

at Corn, about ten miles above this on the north Branch, S^d Indian Clubed his Gun and steped up to Bowyers to shake hands with him, at the same time Bowyers Daughter desired the Indian to go to the House and there they would give him Bread and milk—The Indian Redily comply'd and went to the House carrying his own Gun all the time but never Attempted to do them the least injury, when they went to the House there hapened to be a son of Bowyer's that was abroad that day, came home, he took and tyed the Indian and brought him to me, whome I ordered into Goal where he Remained till last friday, that Col^l Mathew Smith took him down to Lancaster, and from thence to be sent to Council. We had him Examined here by an interpretor but give us very little Sattisfaction, he says he is of the Tuscorora tribe but talks the Mohawk tongue well, he says he was not with the party that had done the murder that morning, nor did not intend doing any harm to the White People, but wanted to come and deliver himself up. Bowyers has demanded certificate from me to intitle him to the Reward Offered for Prisoners agreeable to the Proclamation, I told him I could not with any Propriety give him that, but would Refer him to Council Releating the manner he took him, which I have mentioned above.

When those Volintiers comes to this County, I am afraid we will be scarce of Provisions as there is but little here in store, and but Very little of any kind can be had to Purchase in this County, the Harvest is now aproaching and the inhabitants is geting afraid as it has been the time this two years past that Indians came down in large partys on our Frontiers, and if the Indians begins to Return from the Expedition they intended Carrying on against Fort Schuylar, I am afraid we shall have them here this Harvest likewise.

We are Scarce of Ammunition in this County as that you made mention of to me in your letter of the 24th of April* last has never come to hand so that I am a little Aprehensive it has been miscarryed, I have Wrote to Capt Hambright on this Subject with Daniel Rees who has promised to forward whatever Ammunition will be sent at this time for the Militia of this County.

I am Sir with Great Esteem

your Excellency's most Obed^t

& very Humb^l Servt

SAM^l HUNTER, L. N. C.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See page 205.

Col. Philip Marsteller to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lebanon, June 28th, 1780.

Sir,

Immediately on Receiving your Excellencies last favor I Ceas'd purchasing any more Cattle, but having had 40 purchased before your Order came to hand I have now sent them by the bearer Mr Weiser—I have procured them Reasonable and with Consent of the Owners, the whole 40 with all the Expence and Charges to the Hour of driving them as far Philada comes to £14.330.2.6, Avaraging at £358. 5. 0¾ each, and shall transmit a Regular Act of the whole proceedings to the Honr Council by the first opportunity offering; more Cattle may be had should they be wanted.

Should my further Services be wanted your Excellency will please to Command.

I have the Honor to Subscribe myself
your Excellencies most Obdt
and Very Humble Servt
P. MARSTELLER.

P. S. How Fares our Army?

Directed,
Jos Reed, Esqr, Presdt.

Pres. Reed to Michael Ryan, 1780.

Sir,

As your office was erected in Aid of the Lieutenancy & is not noticed in the Law on which the Militia is framed, it will be best for you, on all Occasions, to make Use of his Authority to draw out the Troops or to carry any other Measure into Effect which may make your Office useful & efficacious. As the Matter is misunderstood I think any Inspection had better be deferr'd for a few Days, & then, in Concert with the Lieutenants & Colonels, you may be able to fix on some Plan which will not meet with Difficulties.

I am, Sir, Your most Obed't
& very H'bble Servt.

Indorsed,—June 28, '80.

Robert Morris to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philada., June 28th, 1780.

Gent^n,

I have the honour to inform you that 350 Muskets are arrived at Baltimore from Cape Francois, in the Brig Hawke, Cap. Taylor, ⅔ds of which are for the state of Pensylvania, & ⅓d for Maryland, being part of 1500 Muskets shipped by Mr. John Ross, in 1776 or 1777, for this Port; that is, 1000 were intended for Pennsa. & 500 for Maryland, they were put in different Boxes, & properly marked & distinguished from each other, but the ship being blown off this Coast put into Cape Francois, landed her Cargo & returned to France. I have constantly been endeavouring to get these & other articles of her Cargo brought here, but it is only now and then a Vessell will take any of them in, as they make better fre^ts with West India Commodities. This Brig's Freight is 33⅓d ℔ C^t on the value, or one third of the Muskets, 234 of these Muskets shall be delivered to your order in Balt^e, but your Honours will please to give orders for payment of the freight in Money or Muskets, at your option; if the former they must be valued, or if more agreeable, I will pay the freight, order them here to your armory & pay all charges on your agreeing to reimburse me when the business is compleated. I am very respectfully your Excellency's & their Honour's most obed't Serv't.

ROBT. MORRIS.

P. S. The Boxes in which they were originally shipped were broke in landing & storing at Cape Francois, which rendered it impossible to distinguish which were the Pensylv^a or Maryland Muskets, for which reason I have constantly, as they arrived, divided them as now proposed; two parcells have already been delivered in this way, & this State has received 314 Muskets & 800 Locks
167 do.
& now, 234 do.

715 part of 1000 shipped.

Directed,

His Exc'y, The President, & their Honours, the Council of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Robert Morris, 1780.

Sir,

Your Favour of yesterday was duly received & laid before the Council. As you have been so obliging, among the Modes proposed of adjusting this Matter, we think it will be attended with the least

Trouble to have the Arms brought hither under your Order, & therefore accept the Offer you have obligingly made in this Respect. We shall chearfully reimburse all Expenses & Charges which may attend the farther Progress of the Matter whenever presented. In the present State of our Armoury it will be more convenient to pay the Freight in Money agreeable to a Valuation.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hbble Ser.

Genl. Geo. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Head Quarters, Ramapaugh, 29th June, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I have agreeable to your Excellency's request sent Col° Johnson with five Officers from the line to take charge of and forward the Levies to the army. I make no doubt but they will meet with all possible assistance from Your Excellency and the Council in procuring such equipments as are necessary for the men previous to their marching.

I am with the greatest respect
and regard, Your Excellency's
most obe't servant,

G° WASHINGTON.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

John Mason to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia.

May Please Your Exceleney,

S^r, Being Oppressed by a Late Law, wich Causes Great murmer'g among your faithfull militia men and Offercers—we are very Unequally Tax'd, therefore very Unjust; in front Street their are Tax'd Ten Shillings in the hundred; in Second Street 20 Shilling; in third 40 Shill'g; in fourth Street 50 Shill'g; in fiveth Street 50 and three pound in the hundred, wich is a Great deal more than we are in the 45 million, an if your Excellency Ear is open to our Complaint, Give us Leave to say we think, that the Sub Lieuts ought to be brought to a Riged acct. for the vast sum in their hands.—for Instance—the money Collected when Exchange at 20—& 30—and if now paid in at 60—Leaves a vast ballance in their hands—further money now due for non-assosiaters, in our square 45000 Dollars major Carr amounts to a vast sum with submission we think—

Double the Number of men might have been Recruted for During the war—for the same money thats to be Raised for two men.

Not to say too much Give me Leave Sr. to say your humble Sevt.

N. B. 5 or 6 Taxes Coming at once together with £18 0s. for Raising two men, makes my Tax £160 and I Intend to go to Camp when Called on.

JOHN MASON.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr.

Genl. Arthur St. Clair to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp at Ramapough, June 29th, 1780.

Sir,

I received a Letter from Colonell Nicola some time ago, intimating a Request of the Council that some Officers might be sent down to take the Charge of, and convey to Camp, a Party of Recruits that were then in Town. We have been so constantly employed, and in motion since, that I could not sooner atend it; but as I am informed that the Number is greatly encreased, and that you wish some Field officer to superintend the Business; Colonel Johnston, who will deliver this, is sent for that purpose, with two officers from each Brigade. These, I presume, will be sufficient, but should it be found that more are necessary, they shall be sent likewise. Colonel Nicola seems to be in doubt whether the Recruits should be armed and equipped in Town or here. I do most heartily wish it may be done in Town, both because I believe it will be difficult here, and that they will be got on with more Ease and less Danger of Desertion.

I am, Sir, Your Excellency's
most obedient Servant,

A. St. CLAIR.

Colonel Chambers has just applied to me about a Commission for a Mr. John McMurtrie, whom he appointed an Ensign in his Regiment, in Consequence, he says, of his having been approved of by You. In that Case I can have no Objection, but in the present weak state of our Regiments we have, in general, more officers than are in any wise necessary, but this Gentlemen has been acting as one for some time.

Directed,

Public service.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Fav[d] by Col. Johnston.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Philadelphia, June 29, 1780.

Sir,

The urgent necessity of drawing into the public Treasury, the ten millions of dollars mentioned in the Act of the 19th May* was so fully pointed out, that Congress exceedingly regret the failure of this necessary supply—the conjuncture is already arrived when it is become essential not only to the operations of this Campaign, but to the very existence of the army.

Congress therefore can no longer delay reiterating the most importunate solicitations, that the proportions of each of the States be forwarded immediately—For this purpose they have dispatched a special messenger, & they trust he will not meet with disappointment. A further sum must also be speedily had or it will be impossible for the Operations to proceed, Congress have therefore drawn on those States for the remainder of their quotas to the first of March last inclusive, and it is their duty to conjure the several States if they should still be unprepared, that they will at all events transmit their arrears to the period last mentioned to the Continental treasury within thirty days from the date of the warrants.

The monthly estimates of money hertofore made were but barely sufficient at that time, their value has since greatly diminished & the payment has been delayed long after it became due. These circumstances have already involved our affairs in much perplexity & driven to expedients which nothing but the last necessity could justify. Permanency and arrangement in the public finances must at every hazard be introduced & supported. In this view Congress do again with the most earnest solicitude press on the several States the necessity of vigorous & decisive measures for conveying into full & immediate execution their resolutions of the 18th of March last. The doing which at the same time that it places public credit on the surest basis will in the course of the year give all the relief that could possibly result from a further emission equal to the whole that is now in circulation. These resolutions Congress are persuaded are every day better understood and that upon giving them their full effect very much depends the final establishment of our Liberties.

It is unnecessary that Congress should suggest to the several States the expediency of providing by Loans against any deficiency they may have reason to apprehend from their taxes.

The blank bills for the several States will be forwarded as fast as the Acts of their Assemblies providing funds for them are transmitted to Congress.

By Order of Congress,

SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

Directed,—His Excellency President Reed.

* See page 225.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, June 29th, 1780.

Ordered,

That warrants be drawn in favor of the Treasurer of the United States on the treasurers of the several States from New Hampshire to Maryland inclusive for the respective proportions of the ten million dollars specially called for by the resolutions of the 19th May last and that expresses be despatched with the same accompanied with a letter from the President of Congress to the executive powers of the said States.

That warrants be also drawn in favor of the treasurer of the United States on the treasurers of the several States above mentioned for the remainder of their quotas of assessment due to the 1st of March last inclusive and sent by the same expresses.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

Col. Lewis Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Gentlemen,

I had the honour of acquainting you last monday of a party of Volonteers I had sent off the evening before, also that several of those ordered had not attended, nor have they since made their appearance.

At roll calling yesterday morning I found 85 ready & ordered them to attend ready to march at 4 in the afternoon, at which time only 17 appeared which were immediate embarked & sent under the care of a Serjt of the Invalid regt to Lt. Honeyman at Trenton, of the defaulters none were at roll calling last night & only 4 this morning.

Yesterday 50 from Berks county and this morning 2 more arrived, they are now at Mr. Millers and I propose, if possible, sending them off this afternoon with as many more as shall then be ready. I have objected to one of these men because he was formerly in the service & dismissed being unfit for field duty.

I recd the inclosed this morning but cannot find the name of Cook among my lists possibly the Council may think it proper some further notice should be taken the 2 men.

Permit me to assure you that I am with respect

Gentlemen, your most obed. Servt,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

29 June, 1780.

Gen. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

(Circular.)

Head Quarters, Rammapaugh, 30th June, 1780.

Sir,

As the levies required of the States for filling their battalions have not yet joined the army or the French fleet arrived, I beg leave to inform you that it will be unnecessary for the militia, which the honorable the committee of Congress were pleased to call for on a late occasion, to be at the place appointed for their rendezvous before the 25th of next month. By this time I would willingly hope that things will be in such a train as to enable us to commence our operations, and to make their aid essential. The present crisis is by far the most important and delicate that this country has ever experienced, and it pains me in the extreme, that we are so backward in all our measures. I hope a moment will not be lost in pushing on the levies to fill the battalions. Our allies would be chagrined were they to arrive to-day, to find that we have but a handful of men in the field, and would doubt it is more than probable whether we had serious intentions to prosecute measures with vigor. If we do not avail ourselves of their succour by the most decisive and energetic steps on our part, the aid they so generously bring may prove our ruin, and at best it will be in such case among the most unfortunate events next to that of absolute ruin, that could have befallen us. I think it my duty, as often as I have the honor of addressing the States, to forewarn them that the completion of their battalions to their full complement of five hundred and four rank and file is a measure of indispensable necessity to the intended co-operation, and that without it we cannot even attempt any thing decisive.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect and esteem,

your Excellency's

most ob^t serv^t,

G° WASHINGTON.

Directed,

His Excellency Governor Reed, Esqr.

Col. L. Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Gentlemen,

Yesterday afternoon I sent off 59 men, mostly Berks County men, & sent directions to Lt. Honeyman to march them off to camp with seventeen men sent before, I shall have a considerable party ready to go to morrow afternoon, but have not an officer to send with them, nor any one there to receive them.

By a letter I rec^d last night from Capt McElhatton, I am informed 5 of the Volenteers who had permission to go home on condition of repairing immediately to Trenton had joined him, several of the men mentioned in my former reports to the Council have not yet returned, Col. Coats informs me he has reason to believe several have gone to Trenton, if so the men will not be lost but the book will be incompleat as some were not sworn or registered, & Capt McElhatton, to whom I have given directions, set off from Trenton the twenty-seventh Inst.

Permit me to assure you that I am with respect, Gentlemen,

your most obed^t Servt,

LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Inv.

30 June, 1780.

Directed,

To his Excellency the President & Hon^l Executive Council.

Col. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Fort Pitt, June 30th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty to inclose the copy of a letter I have just received from the Reverend Mr. Grube, No. 1, likewise a Copy of the invoice of Stores forwarded for my Reg^t and a Return of Stores received. By the first you will see what improper use is made of your proclamation and by Comparing the 2nd & third, the vast deficiency in the Stores. I have not as yet heard how the deficiency has been occasioned, but certainly some body is blame worthy, and I wish the matter may be investigated.

Captain Lt Brady is just returned from Sandusky. He took Prisoners two young Squaws within a mile of their principal Village, one of them effected her escape after six Days march, the other he brought to Cuscusky, where he met seven warriors, who had taken a woman & Child off Chartier's Creek. He fired at the Captain & killed him, and have brought in the woman, & the Indians Scalp, but the Squaw made her escape at the same time When Captain

Brady fired at the Indians he had only three men with him, & but two rounds of powder. He was out thirty two Days, six of which he was quite destitute of Provisions of any kind, but he has brought his party safe to this place. Captain Lieut Brady's Zeal perseverence & good Conduct certainly entitles him to promotion, there has been a vacancy for him ever since the Death of Captain Dawson, which happened in last September, and I must beg leave to reccommend him to the Hon'ble Executive Council as an officer of merit.

I am informed that an Expedition is carrying on from Detroit against the new Settlement at Kentucke. The Lieut of that County applied to me for assistance, but it was not in my power to comply with his request. I have only one months Provisions for my Troops, and how to obtain another, I cannot devise, unless by force, for publick money or Credit cannot be found in this Department. I have wrote to the Hon'ble Board of War for Instructions on this point, but when I shall receive an answer is doubtful.

A Report prevails that Charlestown & our Garrison are in the Hands of the Enemy, I hope there is no truth in it, but bad news is seldom false.

I beg you to present my respectfull Compt to Colo. Bayard, and believe me to be your Excellencies sincere &

H'ble Servant

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

P. S.

The officers of my Reg are very anxious to know when they are to expect their promotion. They have been informed that other officers of our line have received promotion respectively.

Directed,

To His Excell'y Jos. Reed, Esq.

Pres. Reed to Wm. Scott, 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 26th June* was duly received. We would have you carefully distinguish between your Office as Commissioner of Purchases under the Act of Assembly passed the 28 March, & an Appointment under the late Act passed 1st June. The latter was a Mistake of our Clerks, as we did not intend to have any Cattle or Sheep purchased beyond the Susquehanna, these Counties being too remote to give a proper or speedy Supply to the main Army in Distress. You will therefore stop immediately in your Purchases of Flesh, & dispose of what you have procured to the best advantage; the Loss, if any, we must be content to bear. We must beg you would attend to the Law, & not permit any Orders to come down to

* See page 365.

us, but when Persons have procured Cattle by their Credit & Influence, or Advance of Money, & by no means to draw Orders in favour of Persons who were Owners of the Cattle. The Readiness which the Commissioners have shown in giving Draughts upon us, has greatly distressed & embarass'd us, & the more so as many Counties, yours in particular, are extremely deficient in Taxes.—Flour & Forage we must request you to procure as fast & as soon as possible. We hope you will be able to get rid of the Cattle & Sheep with little Loss, & in that Case you will be able to reimburse the Sellers, at least in great Part. The State Money passes current here, & will do so every where. You will please to inform us from Time to Time how you proceed in the Purchases of Flour & Forage.

I am, Sir,

Your obed. Hbbl. Servt.

Wm. Henry to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lancaster, July the 3d, 1780.

Sir,

In a Letter from Colo Atlee, of the 1st Instt, I have the following Paragraph from your Excellency's of the 22d Ulto:

"The Deficiencies of Lancaster County in the Taxes is become a most serious Consideration. The Treasurer informs us that only Three Townships have paid off their Fifteen Million Taxes, while the Counties here which have been invaded, distressed & plundered, have paid off their Fifteen Million, their Forty Five, and Three of their Monthly Taxes. Is not this melancholy?"—I am sorry Mr Rittenhouse has not understood my last Letter to him on that Subject, though perhaps the Fault may be my own; be that as it may, the Fact is, that the whole of the First Tax for 1779, except a Ballance in the Hands of Three of the Collectors (who are sued) is paid into my Hands; and I have paid at Sundry Times abt £163,000 to the Treasurer, and by his Order, &c; and have Orders of Congress for more than the Amount of the First Tax; at the Time I wrote to the State Treasurer there were but Three Townships who had made their first Payments on the second Tax for 1779, Since which Three others have made each a small Payment; But there lays an order of the Treasurer in Favour of Colo Blaine for 150,000, in the hands of Mr Slough, 30,000 of which I have discharged. I was obliged to lend Col. Atlee £1,500 to forward the Pennsylvania Volunteers, except which I have not lent or laid out any Monies, either in Trade or otherways, belonging to the publick. I beg Leave to observe, that there seems to be more expected from Lancaster County than was in our Power to perform. The Act Levying the second Tax for 1779, was made in November last, and the Laws were not sent up

till January. To my Knowledge the Commissioners began to lay the Tax by the Act published in the News-paper, and as they received Instruction from Council which differed from the Method they had pursued, were obliged to Order the Returns to be made over again. The Weather then set in so severe that there was no Travelling till April. The Taxes were laid as soon as the Returns could be got in; and the Appeals were held in May and Collectors appointed.

That Philadelphia City & County Taxes are so far forward is no Merit in their Board of Commissioners, as the Snow was not a fourth Part of the Depth there that it was here; besides, there is little Difficulty in procuring Assessors, Appraisers & Collectors in Philadelphia City & County, &c^a, to what there is here where there are few people in many of the Townships but such as are disaffected. I hope, Sir, you will do me the Justice to believe that I have done, & am doing, all that is in my Power to forward the Collecting the Taxes. The large Sums owing by the Quarter Masters & Commissarys of Purchases, &c^a, will very much lessen the Sum of Money expected from the Taxes of this County.

I am, with due Respect, Sir,

Your most hum. Servt,

WILLIAM HENRY, C. T.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

Gen. Nath. Greene to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp, Precaness, 3d July, 1780.

Sir,

I foresee, from the manner in which the several states are to furnish horses for the use of the army, that the loss of public property will be intolerable, unless necessary precautions are taken to prevent it. I am therefore to request your Excellency to give orders that all the State horses which are sent from Pennsylvania, be branded well on the near shoulder and near buttock, with the letters U. S. P.* This brand will serve to distinguish them from Continental and private property, and at the same time serve to show which State they belong to, and enable us to return to each, at the end of the Campaign, their own property. In an army where there are such a multitude of horses; where there are such a mixture of public and private property; and where there are such a variety of characters who will avail themselves of every opportunity given them to impose upon the Continent, the loss would be endless, without a brand to distinguish them. If there is no brand the Country people will

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 428.

also think themselves entitled to every stray they find; nor can we claim them unless there is some particular mark to know them by.

I am, with respect, Your Excellency's
most obedient, Humble Servant,
NATH. GREENE, Q. M. G.

His Excellency, Governor Reed.

DAVID DAVIS TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Robeson Township, 3d July, 1780.

Sir,

I have purchased Twenty head of Beef Cattle and seventy Sheep, which I shall be ready to send off in a day or two; but the impossibility of procuring drivers without Cash to pay them & other Necessary expenses of collecting, paying for pasture on their way, &c., lays me under the Necessity of requesting you will be so obliging as to send me about One Thousand Pounds, in order to enable me to get the Cattle sent to Camp.

Salt Beef & Bacon is so exceeding Scarce in my district that I have not been able, as yet, to procure more than two hundred weight.

I am, Sir, Your Excellency's
Most Obed't Humble Servant,
DAVID DAVIS, Comm^t.

Directed,

Public service.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philada.

WM. SCOTT TO PRES. REED, 1780.

York, July 4th, 1780.

Sir,

We have been Procuring and Collecting our Volunteers and are in hopes to have them all Ready as soon as arms can be had to equip them. I have engaged a Waggon, which is to set off on to-morrow or next day to Philadelphia, in order to fetch such arms and other things as Council may think proper; with which we expect to receive orders where to send the men for service. Captain Waln (the bearer hereof,) will wait on Council and can inform of particulars better than I can write and will forward any orders which may be for us.

The number of Men to be raised here will amount to near one hundred & thirty.

I am, Sir, your Excellency's
Obedient, Humble servt.,
WM. SCOTT.

Directed,

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esq., President in Council.

Mons. de Corny to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Providence, July the 4th, 1780.

Sir,

I am informed by a Letter from Mr. Holker, that it was impossible to make the necessary Purchases for the French army, with the new Paper money of the state of Pennsylvania; the Reason without Doubt, is that the Credit thereof is not yet sufficiently established. I have therefore requested the Chevalier De La Luzerne to take the necessary steps to repay immediately to the Treasurer of the State the 17000 Pounds that I borrowed through his mediation to the Intent that I may be liberated from the Engagement into which I entered, and also to transmit me the Deed which I signed in Consequence of the Loan.

I am perswaded no Difficulty in the Settlement of this Matter will arise, and I doubt not that the Principles by which the public administration of the United States is actuated, are too equitable to suffer the Settlement of this affair (the only object of which was to cooperate in the Intention of establishing the Credit of the Paper Money) to be in the least burdensome to His most Christian Majesty. I have not therefore the least apprehension that the State of Pennsylvania, will desire, this Sum to be replaced in specie, as I have not been able to make any use of it.

I have the Honor to be,
with Respect Sir,
Your Excellency's Most obedient,
and most humble servant
De CORNY.*

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq.

Philip Marsteller to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lebanon, July 4th, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency's Favour of the 2d Instant is now before me, and find myself extremely happy that my small Service hath met with your approbation, and shall always think it a pleasure, when in my Power to do my Country a piece of Service. Your Excellency is pleased to Say "That you very much regret that the state of my Health will not admit of my assisting you in Flour & Forrage." This expression of your Excellency's induces me to think, that you have not given full attention to my Letter of the 25th June last.† Neither do I remember that I have this while past had so much

* See answer, p. 416.—Christian name illegible. † Page 362.

reason to Complain as formerly, although I am far from being as Harty as I could wish, and as I have oftimes in a Sickly state Transacted the Business of a healthy man, I still flatter myself of being yet of some service in time of need.

I believe I recollect the Circumstance on which your Excellencys Expression is founded, which in my opinion must be from the following Circumstance. "Some time past Mr. Wirtz the Com-"missioner for this County pressed me to assist him in procuring of "Forrage &c, for the army, he said that assistants of common Char-"racter were not adequate to the Business, that it would require "Persons of the first Charracter to go through with it and that he "wished me to accept of the half of the County that whatever "would be the pay or allowance made him I should have, and that "he would have no part of the pay or Commissions on the Purcha-"ses I should make."

"Upon which I made ans^r. That his offers were too fair and "greater than I would offer him or any other man. But that I "could not accept of it as I was Sickly and intended to go to the "Virginia Springs for recovery of my Health."

This was formerly my Intention, but then only made use of as a Genteel ofcome (not wanting to give offence) for who should reasonably suppose, That I, who have Conducted the Business of the County for 2¼ years past with some Credit, would act as assistant or Partner with a man who is too much a Stranger to the Business to do that Service that is expected from him. And I am well assured that neither your Excellency if properly acquainted with us both nor no other gentleman would wish me to accept of any appointment whatsoever in the Gift of Mr. Wirtz. And as Mr Wirtz has so lately been at Philad. I concluded that the assurance of my bad state of Health must have come through the above recited Circumstance.

Finding that your Excellency is much Concerned for the necessary Support of our army, & their allies, and observing a seeming Satisfaction in the Services I have performed at your request, I think myself in duty Bound to offer my farther assistance should necessity require it, nevertheless under the immediate direction of the Honbl. Council for I am to Jealous of the Honor of being called a man of Business, to Bestow the Credit of my Labour and Industry upon another man. As to the State money, I would rather Steer Clear of it yet a while and act the dum Spectator, for it is not in Vogue in this part of the Country as yet—But Specie would be the thing to do Business to some Purpose.

As to the News your Excellency was pleased to Communicate, I humbly thank you, and am glad to Hear the Enemy have left our Borders.

The Spirit and Zeal of the Ladies of your City is very Commendable, and I shall, when oppertunity Suits, indeavor to elevate the Spirits of the Female Whigs in this Neighbourhood, and if Pos-

sible, talk them out of a few dozen of Shirts, for the Comfort of our brave fellows at Camp.

Your Excellency is pleased to Acquaint me, that the State money is getting into a ready and quick Circulation, and that you plainly see it will go in spite of the Ungenerous Opposition it has met with from the Enemies of Governmt.

To which Paragraph I beg leave to reply, That the State Money alluded to has met with, and still may meet with, Opposition from the best Friends of Government existing—for upon due Consideration, the Loss in the Cotl. money falls wholly upon the Friends of Government, and the Tory Party run clear of the Cost—The Tory recd none of it in Payment if Possably he could Avoid it—he sold no Produce unless Compelled; when that was the Case, he took care to Realize or Exchange it for Specie Immediately. But on the other hand, the Whigg, full of Zeal to his Country, gave up what Specie he had for the Northern Expedition, and for the recruiting Service, thinking of no Advance;—sold his Produce and every other necessary for the Army freely and readily, when called upon, So that the mony received from 1775 to the middle of the year 1777 Cost him equal to the Hard money, and what he got since he paid dearer than the Tory by reason of his readiness of Selling and never waiting for the highest Price—And now to have his money divided by 40, 60, or perhaps a divisor equal to the dividend, may go much against the Grain of many a good man, Especially when he reflects that $\frac{39}{40}$ or more of what he once thought his Property, is gone (not lost) but gone to keep Clear of Taxation the *Beeing* who wished to see the United States in Slavery, and who was the greatest Fault of the Exorbitant debts upon our Country—from these and many other Considerations, said money, perhaps, has, & yet may, meet with Opposition, even from the Friends of Government. I could Heartily wish that the matter might be made Clear, so as to be understood even by the Weakest Capacities, for I much dread we shall loose more Friends by the Bargain than we shall make Prosolites.

Permit me, sir, one minuteto think of myself—I have been a friend to my Country and a Slave to the Public from the begining of the Contest to this day, and hope ever to Continue the former. I have been constantly employ'd in public service, and thinking I was getting a Compensation nearly Adequate to my Services; Therefore devoted my whole time to the Service of my Country, and disbanded every thought of Trade and Speculation, and throwing my little Fortune (attained before the War) to the Public Use in the Business I was engaged. But, upon Calculation, I find I have served 5 years for nothing—found myself—felt and see that the full one half of my little Fortune is melted away by depreciation. But if there is no better way of Curing the Evil and paying the Public debt than the mode in question, be it so; it shall never set me Crazy, nor Cause me to turn Tory; for I will readily agree, that Self Interest ought to make way for Public Welfare.

Pardon me for being so very Tedious; it is a Subject upon which I would wish to have the best Information—Therefore, if I could be Honor'd with your Excellencies Opinion thereon, it would be for-ever Acknowledged

By your Very Hum^b Servt,

P. MARSTELLER.

His Excellency Joseph Reed.

Lt. Samuel Rea to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Northampton, 4th July, 1780.

May it please your Excellency,

Since my last of June 1st, I have receiv'd Instructions Concerning the volunteers of this County, with Blank Commissions, and I have filled up the Commissions for the following officers, Viz., Capt. Johannes Van Etten, Lieutenant John Fish, and Ensign Thomas Syllaman.

According to orders I have collected the Volunteirs at the County Town, and find that there is but about fifty, but they are dayly Comeing in. I have ordered them up to the frontier of this County, hopeing your Excellency will approve thereof, and direct how they Shall be Stationed for the future.

I am pressed upon by the frontier Inhabitants to apply to your Excellency and the Supream Executive Council, for a number of Volunteirs from the Adjacent Countys, or Such other releif as you in your wisdom Shall direct, as the fronteir of this County is So Extensive that the Volunteirs raised therein will not be sufficient when the whole Quota is compleated, will but amount to 96 in number.

And there is Several Companys along the fronteir So broke and fled, that it Seems very distressing for them to hire two Volunteirs.

I have received the Commissions of the Militia Officers, and have distributed them.

I am, Sir, your Excellencys

Obedient and very Humble Ser^t.

SAM'L REA,

Lieu^t of Northampton County.

P. S. By Certain Intelligance the Indians have taken M^r. Dewitt, about ten days ago, near to Captain Van Ettens, on Delaware.

Since this Letter was wrote I have receiv'd the Inclosed Qualification, and Intelligence of a man being killed Near the Mouth of Lacawak, on Last Friday.

Directed,

On Public Service—

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Supreame Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

☞ Colonel Balliot.

Deposition of John Leffertie, 1780.

This Day parsonally appeared before me, Jno. Leffertie, who was Last year a Capt. In the battau Service, who Declares on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, that he was Inform'd by Capt. Persons, Living on the Mohauk River, Nine Days before Coughenawage was burnt, that Sr Jne Johnson, with a strong party, was on his way from Canada to that Place, and that he would Certainly Come and burn that Place, which Information he the Deponant told to Coll. Clock, Jno. Fonda and others, but It seems they Did not Give Credit thereto—the Place was burnt, and further Declares that the same Persons who had Given him the above Intiligence Came Down the River to this Place the 17th Instant, to Inform him as follows, that within a fortnight or three weeks the Enemy will make a Stroke on this Place, by the way of Helleberg and back of Bawls Town—that Brant and Buttler are Gone to the Minissink, and when they Return they are to Effect It; they are to Alarm Conojoherry, In order to Draw our militia from this place.

Schenectendey, June 19, 1780.

A Coppy by JNO. LEFFERTIE.

Sworn before me.

Sign'd Fonda, Justice.

To the County Lieuts. Northampton, Pennsylvania, June 22d, 1780.

The Pettition of the inhabitants of Penn Tomension & Chesnut Hill townships,

Humbly Sheweth:

That Whereas the Melittia that was granted by order of the Honnourable the President and Councill, for the Protection of the fronteers against the Indians, under the command of Cor'nl Karn, & as their times is nearly exspired we begin To Dread the Consequences of a cruel savage enemy, which will have it in their Power, not only to Kill, Captivate and drive the Poor inhabitants, But totally

destroy our Harvest, Which, added to our other Distresses, will not only hurt the Commonwelth but encourage them. We find by experience, the Meathod & Activity of our Melittia officers has repulsed the enemy twice at Diferent Posts, though very weak, & saved the people from Death & Captivity, and other distruction to the publick. Now we Earnestly emplore & humbly Besetch, that we may have other Gards Stationed on our fronteers before or emediately when the present ones times does expire, as it is impossable for any person to look upon Himself only to Stand as a Candidate who shall be taken first: after Our Posts is broke up; & as for the seven months men that is now raised To Garde a fronteer upwards of one hundred miles, must be certainly Enefectual to the Security of the good people of these townships; it is Now our earnest desire you may take the primices into a Seriouse consideration, & grant us such relievf as is consistant to justis & in your power; But if you cannot answer our Prayer, We Desire this Pettition to be laid before his Excellency the President & Councill, as we are in duty Bound, shall ever Pray.

WILLIAM MYERS, Capt.

Nicholas Karn, Coll.,
Francis Bohler,
Daniel Warner,
Jonathan Warnar,
Edmond Edmonds,
Nathaniel Edmonds,
Joseph Everett,
Henry Davis,
George Holder,
James Dodson,
Moses Davies,
Peter Edmans,
John Camron,
Wm. Knickerbacker,
Wm. Carney,
Wm. Wall,
John Warner,
Samuel Warner,
George Peveahouse,
Nathan Warner,
Peter Hooken, Capt.,
Giles Perman,
Joseph Gable,
John Rhodes,
John Rhodes, Junr.,
Richard Dodson,
John Carney, Lt.,
Petter McCoy,
Petter Strowl,
Daniel Strowl,
John Grigory, Capt.,
Stophel Sciverling,
Jacob Sciverling,
John Hawn,
Petter Woodringer,
Hon Petter Solts,
John Solts,
John Cline,
Barney Cline,
Niclas Box,
Thomas Dodson,
Fredrick Boyer,
Petter Bloss,
Henry Bloss,
Petter France,
James Zellor,
Peter Roth, Capt.,
Fredrick Shackler,
John Shackler,
And others.

Directed,

To the Care of Colls. Petter Burkhalter & John Hayes, Junr., Sub. Lieuts.

JOHN HUBLEY TO COL. LEWIS NICOLA, 1780.

Trenton, 4th July, 1780.

Sir,

Yesterday about 3 o'Clock P. M., I arrived here with the Lancaster County Volunteers that I march with from Philad^a, also three Volunteers belonging to the City of Philad^a, fourteen belonging to Chester County, fourteen to Bucks County & one private belonging to the standing Army, since my arrival two Philad^a County & one from Chester County have joined the party so that at present I have here, 107 Volunteers & one Continental Soldier. Mr Hagener who was to Assist me is also here this day, we intend to march to Princetown, we have procured a Horse for Mr Hagner but can neither get a Saddle or Bridle so that it is uncertain whether he will be able to proceed any further, if he should return home, I must proceed with them myself I shall use my best endeavours in conducting the men to camp but I can assure you the Task is too severe, I am a great deal fatigued only sence we embark'd on the Boat we were so crouded that we could hardly stand and the hold of the Vessel was constantly so full of Water that it was almost useless. I have made Inquiry for Capt McElhalton & Lieu^t Honeyman but understand they both proceeded towards Camp.

The following Volunteers belonging to Lancaster County were Absent when we marched from Philadelphia.

William Willson, unfit to march was ordered to remain at the Barracks in Phila.

Casper Peter, 4th Batt^n Capt Beard's Com^y suppos'd to have deserted.

John Hamilton,	1st Batt^n, Capt Slater C^o,	were seen in the City about an hour before we march'd, at a place call'd Irish Town.
John Campbell,	1st Batt^n, Capt Smith do.,	
Patrick Melone,	4th Batt^n, Capt Wright do.	
William Hunt,	8th Batt^n, Capt Jno Hubley do.,	
James Waters,	1st Batt^n, Capt Brisbin do.,	

If any of the above absentees have since appear'd at the Barrack in Philad^a you will please to forward them, and if not I beg you will Inform Col. Samuel Atlee Lieutenant of Lancaster of them.

I am Sir, with esteem Sir,

your most Humble serv^t,

J. HUBLEY.

P. S. As I have no written orders with respect to the Command of Philad^a City & County, Counties of Chester & Bucks, Volunteers, I shall manage as well as I am able, some of the men have already endeavour'd to make confusion, concerning it, however I toldtthem that unless, they would obey my orders & march with the others I

should prevent their drawing rations, at present they all seem willing to march with me & obey Orders.

J. H.

Directed,
(On Public Service.)
Col. Lewis Nichola, Commanding at the Barracks, Philadelphia.

JUDGE FRANCIS HOPKINSON TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Dr Sir,

I should have waited on you for your friendly advice respecting the Subject of the enclosed Paper, but cannot put on my Shoe owing to a small Touch of the Gout. I have promised an Answer to Mr Oster this afternoon & think the Precedent of too much importance to establish without Advice. I hope therefore you will excuse my troubling you on this Occasion.

I am Sir
your most obedient
humble servt
F. HOPKINSON.

July 5th, 1780.

Directed,
To His Excellency President Reed, Prest.

JAMES BAYLY TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Lancaster, July 5th, 1780.

Honble Sir,

Your favour of the 24th Ultimo Inclosing a Resolve of Council In Consequence of General Washington's Regulation to Raise teams for the Immediate Support of the army I Recd the 2d Instant and am busely imployed in Engaging A. W. M. and am obliged to leave a blank in their Commissions with Respect to their pay, they absolutely Refuse to Raise the teams until they are Certain of their wages and the wages of those Conductors that the appoint to go out with the teams, and likewise the pay of the Militia that may be Called upon to assist as the whole teams will have to be impressed I am not able to promise the waggon Masters more than twenty dollars pr day which is faur Inadquate to the Service, I can get no person to under take this Disagreeable task but those that have all along been Stench friends to their Country and have generaly Served Chiefly on their own pockets; it will be merely imposoble for me to proceed any further in this business if the above Request is not Generously Complyed with, as the Militia are Generaly men (or least those we get to do this Service) that works for their living the will not assist

without their days pay what the Can yearn at work which I have no authorety to promise them. please to Excuse haste as the Gentelman who Carys this is waiting for it.

I have the Honor to be your Excellencys
most obedient and very Humble Servant
JAMES BAYLY, W. M. L. C.

Directed,—To The Honble Joseph Reed Esqr Philadelphia.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, July 6th, 1780.

On motion of the Delegates for the State of Pensylvania, in pursuance of Instructions from the President & Supreme Executive Council of the said State.

Resolved, That the Board of Treasury be directed to supply the President and Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pensylvania with bills of Exchange, drawn on the Minister of the United States, at the Court of France, to the amount of one thousand pounds Sterling, for which the said State is to be accountable.

Extract from the Minutes.
CHAS. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Col. L. Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Gentlemen,

I beg leave to represent to you an inconvenience we labour under by the mode pursued by the magistrates of this city when soldiers appear before them as delinquents, which is to send them to the county Gaol or work house for every trifling offence, by which means several are lost for a long time to the army, & their fees generally rise so high that few officers will venture so much money, which must be lost in whole or part in case the delinquent dies or deserts before it can be stoped, which, on account of the smallness of soldiers pay, usually requires several months.

If there is not some obstacle or impropriety, which I am ignorant of, I request of the Hon'ble Council directions to the Magistrates to send all military delinquents, not accused of capital offences, to the New Gaol, from whence they may be taken without any expence, & if the prosecutor is satisfied with a military trial, that & the punishment will be the work of but few days, the latter will also be much more exemplary, and the country sooner rape the benefit of their services.

Permit me to assure you that I am, with respect,
Gentlemen, your most obed. servt.,
LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Philada., 6 July, 1780.

Directed,
To his Excellency, the President, & the Hon'le Executive Council.

Pres. Reed to Delegates in Congress, 1780.

In Council, July 6, 1780.

Gentlemen,

The Legislature of this State, duly sensible how much the publick safety & our future Happiness depends, not only upon having a respectable force in the Field; but that the Appointments should be such as to soften, as much as possible, the unavoidable Hardships of War, & give satisfaction to their Troops, have pass'd sundry Laws, providing Cloathing & divers other Necessaries, for the Line of this State, which it is our duty to execute with all possible Punctuality & Care. To enable us so to do, the Assembly laid a Tax of One Million six hundred thousand Dollars, in addition to the Quota of this State, as required by the Hon'ble Congress; But the late Exigence of the Army for Provisions was a call of so commanding a Nature as to forbid all Reserve or Delay. We not only exhausted our Treasury on the Occasion, but we anticipated the Receipts by enabling the Continental Commissary to take up money in the several Counties. In addition to this we have also expended, by our own Commissioners, a Sum which from the best Computation we can form, will amount to at least, 2 Millions of Dollars, in Collecting Cattle, Sheep, & Salted Provisions. Articles not required of this State as any Part of the Specifick Supplies. We are proceeding with all Dispatch to collect the specifick supplies demanded, but find ourselves embarass'd in providing the enumerated Articles, which the Laws above referred to have promised to the Troops. And have concluded to endeavour to procure them from Europe, upon a State Credit. A very small Sum compared with what we have advanced on this Occasion, would be of great Relief, and we would, therefore, desire you to apply to Congress for £1000 Sterling, of the Bills now drawing, which we will either pay in the State Money, now getting into easy Circulation, or stand charged with, untill the whole Accounts of the extraordinary Advance can be collected, & a Settlement made between the Continental Commis^rs & our State Commissioners; or repaying it in Continental Money in a short Period.

We flatter ourselves that upon the special Ground of our Request, & our Situation & Readiness to answer any Exigencies of Congress, it cannot be made an inconvenient Precedent. We have the Satisfaction to inform you that notwithstanding the large Sums due in this State, on Q^r Masters & Commissaries Certificates, we have answered all the Draughts of Congress, & they are now nearly paid. That the Collection of our Taxes is more speedy & vigorous, & our Prospects on the Subject more encouraging.

We shall in a few Days lay before the Hon. Congress, the Progress we have made upon these several Requisitions enumerated in a late Application from that Hon. Body, & hope the Communication will show that the Ardour & Zeal of Pennsylvania is not abated in

the publick Cause; but that any reasonable Expectation will be fully answered.

I am, Gent., very respectfully,
Your Obed't, H'bble Servt.,
JOS. REED, President.

Pres. Reed to Col. Saml. Hunter, 1780.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 27th June* has been duly rec^d.—We should hope that the Militia of the County would be very ready to furnish the whole Number of Volunteers agreeable to their Quota, as it will be very encouraging to the inner Counties to see the Frontier Inhabitants in earnest to help themselves.

We are sorry to hear the Attempts which have been made to get Scalps & Prisoners have been so unsuccessful, & hope Perseverance will, in Time, produce better Effects—We cannot help thinking it the only effectual Mode to carry on an Indian War, and that a mere defensive System is not only attended with an enormous Expence, but to very little adequate Purpose.

We have done nothing with Respect to the Indian, as we are told he is to be brought hither; but it seems to be the present Sense of the Council to pay the Reward upon the proper Certificate being produced, unless some new Reason should occur to the contrary.

We are very anxious to make your Situation as secure as possible, & in this Respect our Attention to your County has been so visible as to excite the Jealousy of the other Frontier Counties, who have been left much more to their own Protection: But we cannot help observing how inadequate the Supplies of the Country are to support the Men called for—In the first Place, the Demand is for Men, & in some Instances very large—then the Demand is for Provisions, untill one increasing on the other creates fresh Embarassment. The Taxes are now so extremely high in the inner Counties, & the Demands for Money so great & various, that we find it very difficult to answer even a Part of them: It will therefore unavoidably happen, that your Exertions must be considerable in the County, & that your Reliance upon distant Aid must also in some Degree abate. We must particularly urge upon you the greatest Oeconomy in the Expenditures of every kind. We have much Reason to believe the Post at Sunbury, under Continental Management, has not been remarkable for its Frugality—But we flatter ourselves it is now in better & more discreet Hands. It will be much for the Interest of the Frontiers if the leading Men would interest themselves in checking every Species of Waste or Abuse, & prove a powerful Incentive to the inner Counties to give them Supplies when they are found to be used with Prudence & Oeconomy.

* Page 269.

The Supply of Ammunition sent you last April was very considerable, & as it is by no Means in such Plenty or so cheap as that we can afford these Miscarriages, we wish you had sent down some prudent, careful Person to enquire after it—These Articles are very expensive, & very difficult to be procured, & an indifference as to their Safety, with the Repetition of the Demand, gives some Occasion to apprehend that the Inhabitants do not interest themselves so much in the matter as they would do if they paid for & procured it.

In June, 1779, Col. Smith rec^d 511^lb of Powder & 1000 Flints, which we are informed were not forwarded immediately, & are now supposed to be in Paxtang—We think this & the Parcel sent last April, should be inquired after, & would prove a very competent Supply at Present.

General Washington & Congress having made repeated Demands upon us for Men to fill up the Line in the Continental Army, now much reduced, we have been obliged to apply the Volunteers collected from Philad., Chester, Bucks, Lancaster & Berks, to recruit the main Army—Those from Cumberland, York, & the other Counties, will go to the Frontiers;—we were sorry to hear a Difficulty was made in the upper Parts of Lancaster in going to the Continental Army—as if it should be persisted in, so that we should gratify them, the immediate Consequence would be that the German Reg^t would be withdrawn. It is with great Difficulty we have been able to preserve them, & any Disappointm^t of the Volunteers promised by the General, & especially of such a Nature, would have this Effect.

I am, Sir, with much Esteem,

Your Obed. Hble. Servt.

John Hubley to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Morristown, 7th July, 1780.

May it please his Excellency:

This forenoon about 10 o'Clock, I arrived here with one hundred & four Pennsylvania Volunteers, having left Philad^a with one hundred and six, one of which (Stephen Davis, of Lanc^r County,) I was obliged to confine in Trenton Goal, he having been discover'd there to be a deserter from the Connecticut Line, and the other (Henry Redding, of Lanc^r County,) having had leave at Princetown to see some of his friends near Rockyhill, but has not overtaken us since

When I left Philad^a a Mr Hagener, Ensign of the City Militia was sent to Trenton by Land, by the Lieutenant of the City, from thence to Assist me in marching the Volunteers to Camp; I procured a Continental Horse for him there, but for want of a Saddle & Bridle he returned to Philad^a.

Thus far I am come, but not without a great deal of Trouble & fatiegue; but the satisfaction I have in bringing these men here, and

with so little loss, greatly exceeds all the trouble I could possibly have had with them.

The remainder of this day we shall lay by here; to morrow evening I expect to arrive at Camp & deliver my charge.

I have the Honor to be
His Excellencies most Obedient
Humble servt,
J. HUBLEY.

His Excellency, Gen. Reed.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Philadelphia, July 7, 1780.

Sir,

By the Act of Congress of the 6th Instant, herewith enclosed, your Excellency will be informed that they have directed the Board of Treasury to supply the President & Supreme Executive Council of this State with the Bills of Exchange drawn on the Minister of the United States at the Court of France, to the Amount of one thousand Pounds Sterling,* for which the said State is to be accountable.

I have the honour to be,
with very great respect,
your Excelly's most obedt. sert.,
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

His Excell'y, President Reed.

OPINION OF JONA. D. SERGEANT, 1780.

Philada., 7 July, 1780.

Sir,

I have considered the Question stated by the honourable Council for my Opinion, to wit.: "How for a Commission given by a "British Governor to cruize on the Subjects of the King of France "will, by the Law of Nations, authorize maritime Hostilities on "these United States or any of them,—and whether such a Com-"mission found on any person practising such Hostilities, ought to "give him protection in Case of a Capture as a prisoner of War?" —and I am of Opinion,

1st. That a person cruising against the Subjects of the United States under a Commission against the French is to be considered in the same Light as if he had no Commission at all; except in so far as such Commission is prima facie Evidence that he is a British Subject.

* See pages 391, 392.

2d. Yet I am inclined to think that every Subject of a State at War is justifiable by the Law of Nations in capturing the Effects of the Enemy either by Sea or Land; altho, if there be no Commission the prize belongs strictly to the Sovereign power of the State & not to the Captor. Lee [pa. 237] indeed seems to think that if a Ship without a Commission go out of her Way to cruize against the Enemy they might run the Risque of being deemed Pirates, & punished as such; [Puff. l. 8, c. 6, § 21,] but the Book he refers to by no means supports any such opinion. On the other hand Molloy [1, 4, 2,] is express that even private Men without any Commission might send forth ships of War;—altho at the same Time he tells us that it is usual on the breaking out of a War to restrain by proclamation any persons from setting forth without a Commission. This would hardly be done if the thing itself were piracy independent of any such proclamation. Besides the furthest he goes on this head is the putting a Case from Roll's Abr. [530] "If a Merchant with Letters of Marque or Reprisal furnishes out "a Ship with a Captain & Mariners, and they, instead of taking the "Goods or Ships of that Nation against whom their Commission is "awarded, take the Ships & Goods of a *Friend*, this is piracy." The present Case is that of taking the Ships or Goods of an *Enemy*, which is widely different. What is pretty remarkable is that of the Authorities cited by Lee, not one treats it as piracy; but they seem to agree that the prize in such Case belongs to the summum Imperium of the State.

Taking for granted therefore that the persons in Question are British Subjects, I think they have been guilty of no offence against the Law of Nations. What Modern British Statutes or proclamations they may have contravened, we do not so well know how nor does it seem to be material.

I have the Honour
to be y^r Exc^y
most obed^t hble. serv^t,
JONA. D. SERGEANT.*

Directed,
His Excell^y Presid^t Reed.

Pres. Reed to Mr. Holker, 1780.

Sir,

When we were in Conference with you on the Subject of aiding Mr. Cornay in his Purchases within this State I mentioned the Probability that this State might have Occasion for some Bills on Europe, which might be a more convenient Mode of Repayment

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 412.

than drawing Specie for such Part of the State Money as should not be specifically returned. The Receipt of this Money in Taxes has given it a more general Circulation than was some Time ago expected, so that we find a considerable Sum returning to us in that Way. If it was convenient to you to let us have a Bill for about £500 Sterling for a special State Purpose it will oblige us, & we will take it on these Terms, that if on the Repayment of the State Money lent, the whole Sum shall be specifically returned we will pay you for the Bill at the current Exchange at this Time—otherwise to be settled in that Account. You will please give to me your Sentiments hereupon, & if convenienient to draw the Bill to do it in my Favour as President of the State.

I am Sir,

with due Consideration,

Your Obed. & very Hble. servt.

Indorsed July 8th, 1780.

Directed,

The Hon. Mr. Holker.

Genl. Arthur St. Clair to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp at Perckeness, July 8th, 1780.

Sir,

Since yesterday when I did myself the Honour to address you it has been reported to me that some of the Recruits are unfit for service; these have been directed to be sent back as they would be a public Expence and no advantage, and this happening in the first Instance may serve to make the Officers careful whom they accept.

In a former Letter I took the Liberty to express a Wish that they might be armed before they were sent on. I beg leave to repeat it, the removal of our Stores in consequence of the late operations of the Enemy having rendered the arming them here more difficult.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Ar ST. CLAIR.

I forgot before I closed this Letter to inform your Excellency that Mr. Swaine has been tried by a Court Martial for absenting himself from Camp without Leave, Abuses in the Execution of his Office, and fraud, and found guilty of each, and the Sentence was yesterday confirmed by the General; it will therefore be necessary that the State appoint some other Person—in the meantime an officer shall be appointed to do the Duty.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Christian Wirtz to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lancaster, July 8th, 1780.

Sir,

I have Inclosed a Return of the Purchases made in this County since my appointment. This Post has received Sixty Barrels of the Flower, and the greater Part of the remainder I have forwarded to Estherton.

Col. Weltner, the commanding officer at Sunbury, writes very pressing for a supply of Beef, Flower & Rum, and Mr. Stewart, the Bearer of this, is now on his way to Council on the same business. From appearances I expect, in a few Days to be able to lay in a sufficient Quantity of Flower at Estherton to supply the Frontier Posts, and hope to make you monthly returns hereafter to some Satisfaction.

I am your most Obd^t
& very H^l Servt,
CHRISTIAN WIRTZ, C. P. L. C.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

Return of Supplies purchased in Lancaster Co., 1780.

A Return of Supplies purchased in Lancaster County, by order of the Hon'ble The Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

July 6th, 1780.

One hundred & Twenty Barrels of Flower.
Two hundred & Thirty Bushels of Wheat.
Sixty five Bushels of Rye.
One hundred & Forty One Bushels of Corn.
Thirty Bushels of Speltz.
Twenty Six Bushells of Buckwheat.
Two hundred & Thirty Two Bushells of Oats.
Forty Ton of Hay.
Two hundred & Fifty Bundles of Rye Straw.

CHRISTIAN WIRTZ, Commissioner
of Purchases for Lancas^r County.

Pres. Reed to John Adams, Minister, &c., 1780.

Philad., July 9, 1780.

Sir,

Eminent Abilities when employed for the Welfare & Happiness of Mankind justly & properly attract Notice of Veneration & while they honour the Possessors subject them to Claims from which inferior Characters are exempt.—It is upon this Ground that we beg Leave to recommend to your Excellcy Favourable Notice & Regard the Bearer Mr Searle, his unshaken Attachment to the Liberties of America & faithful Discharge of his Duty as a Delegate for this State in Congress will we are persuaded powerfully engage your Civilities & Regard. In addition to this we beg Leave to add that in the deranged state of our Finances, & enlarged Trade we find it necessary for States to make particular Exertions to supply their Troops & have therefore given Mr Searle a Commission to this Purpose as well as to transact some other publck Buisness in which your kind Advice & Assistance will be particularly obliging to this State.

Our fervent Wishes for your Health & Happiness & Honour attend your Excellcy & am in Behalf of the Suprême Executive Council of this State,

Your Excellcys
most Obed. & very
Hble Serv.

Indorsed,

July 10, To His Exc'y John Adams, Esq., Minister P'y of U. S. of N. A., at the Court of France.

Nicholas Lutz to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Reading, 10th July, 1780.

Sir,

Inclosed herewith I have sent you my returns of purchases & deliveries up to the 30th of June included, if the returns do not prove satisfactory or in the form you would have them, you will be so kind as to send me a few blank Copies by the expiration of the Month, as I intend making my returns monthly for the future.

In consequence of a resolve of Council of 27th May last, a Copy whereof I have inclosed herewith, importing that (among other Posts) the Post of Reading was to be Supplied by the Commissioner of Purchases this, with the repeated & most pressing applications of the Issueing Commissary Induced me to deliver him the supplies you will find delivered him by the return of deliveries: yet the last 18 Barrels of Flour would not have been delivered him, had not a distant Miller by Ignorance & mistake sent said Flour & Invoice directed to Peter Aston A. C. of Purchases who delivered it to the Issuing Commissary, & the chief part thereof being Issued out before said Mistake came to my knowledge.—I shall have in the course of

a week about one hundred Barrels of Flour, ready to be sent where you may please to Order.—But under the present disadvantages I am afraid I can procure but little more before harvest.

First, I have endeavoured to employ or appoint some persons for my Assistance but without effect, as no persons of propriety would except thereof, for they thought the emoluments the Law allowed, was inadequate to the Trouble & expence of serving in that capacity. Secondly, I have strictly adheared to your letter of 22d Apl last, wherein you requested me by no means to use any compulsive measures, but to proceed in the common way of buying & selling only, which I realy thought myself, was the only way to begin with, In consequence thereof I traveled thro' the County & trusted much to the promises of Farmers who had considerable Store of Grain &c. but to my Surprize those very persons, finding I continued in that Linient line, they (as I afterwards found) under divers pretences found means of evading their promises & conveying their Grain, Flour &c. out of my reach, otherwise had I been able to command proper Assistance & Seized Stores wherever I found them according to the Tenor of the Law, I should a had by this time a very considerable quantity on hand—I should be exceeding glad you would write me in answer hereof; and likewise if I am to make Seizures, please be so kind as give me some explanation of such cases wherein I am not to make Seizures, as I am in some doubts.

I would also represent to you that unless there be some further allowance made me than what I apprehend the Law allows: (paying Clerk, my own expences &c. comes high) I conceive I shall serve the public much at my own expence.

I am honoured in being Your Excellencys

Most Obedient Humble Servant,

NICHOLAS LUTZ,

Co of Ps B. Cov.

Directed,

Public Service,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq., President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia.

John Hubley to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp at Priegnieu, July 10th, 1780.

Sir,

I wrote to your Excellency a few day's since from Morristown, & expected to have marched to camp the next day, but for want of one days provissions which the Commissary could not then supply us with, I was under the necessity of remaining a day longer at Morristown. Yesterday morning we set off but was oblig'd to send two of our Volunteers to the Hospital, they both get very sick, and one of them it's suppos'd is getting the small-pox. I arrived here last

evening, and this morning they were muster'd (not one of them being rejected,) they were draughted into different Regiments. It gave general Satisfaction to the Officers here on the arrival of so hearty & good looking a set of Men.

I was not a little supriz'd when I met 6 or 8 Volunteers between Morristown & Camp on their return home, who did not pass muster that the Officers of the Militia who inlisted them could not procure better men.

I am your Excellencies
most Obedient Humble servt
J. HUBLEY.

P. S. I shall only obtain a rect for the 102 Volunteers I brought to camp.

Directed,
To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

JOURNAL OF JOHN HUBLEY, 1780.

July 2d 1780. Then set off from Philadelphia with one Hundred & six Pensylvania Volunteers, viz.

From Lancaster County,	72
From Bucks County,	15
From Chester County,	14
From City Philada,	8
From County of Philada,	2
	106

July 10th, 80, Arrived at Camp with 102 Volunteers, viz.

Lancr County,	69
Bucks County,	14
Chester County,	14
City of Philada,	8
County of Philada,	2
	102
Stephen Davis (Lancr Co.,) discover'd to be a Deserter from the Connecticut Line was confin'd in Trenton Goal.	1
Henry Redding was left at Rocky Hill has not overtaken us (of Lancr Co.)	1
Joseph Geddis of Lancr County sick at Morristown.	1
Samuel Worral, Bucks Co., do.	1
	106

July 10th, 1780.

J. HUBLEY.

M. Hillegas, Treas., to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philad^a, July 10th, 1780.

Gentlemen,

Congress having been pleased to send me two Warrants of theirs, on you, both dated the 29th ultimo, one of them for one million seven hundred and ninety six thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars, The other for Four million five hundred and sixty nine Thousand and forty five dollars and one third of a dollar; Am therefore to request the favor of you, That you would please to acquaint me how soon I may expect the whole or of part thereof.

I am Gentlemen

with much regard

your most Obed^t Servt

M. HILLEGAS, Tres^r U. S.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President and the Supream Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Mons. Holker to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, ye July 10th, 1780.

Sir,

I received your Excellency's favor of ye 8th, current inclosing a permit for the Exportation of two hundred barrels of Flour for Cape Français for which I return my gratefull thanks, I should have made application in person if I had been in Town.

I now inclose a bill on France drawn to your order as President of the state of Pensilvania for value of £500 st^g at the par of Exchange between Paris & London, making the sum of Eleven thousand four hundred & twenty Eight livres Eleven sols tournois, for which I shall take the liberty of requesting your Excellency's receipt on account of money borrowed from the state for Monsieur De Corny one of his Majesty's Provincial Commissary's. I Shall understand with you on this subject, when this matter will be finally Settled.

I Remain Your Excellency's

most obedient, & very humble servant,

HOLKER.†

His Exy. Jh. Reed Esqr.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 423.

† See page 397, also Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 419.

C. J. McKean to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

Inclosed your Excellency will receive the opinion of the judges on the questions proposed to Council by the judge of the Admiralty respecting a General Warrant to search for Deserters from French ships.

I have the Honor to be,
your Excellency's
most obedient humble servant,
THO. McKEAN.*

Philadelphia July 10th 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire President &c., of Pennsylvania.

Opinion of Judges of Supreme Court, 1780.

Gentlemen,

We have received the memorial of the Judge of the admiralty referred to us by Council for our consideration and opinion.

The case as stated.

The Vice Consul of France applies to the Judge of the admiralty of Pennsylvania for a General Warrant to search vessels in the harbour of Philadelphia for seamen deserted from certain French Ships now in port. Upon which the Judge desires the advice of Council, particularly on two Points, viz. 1mo. Whether the sheriff of the County is not competent to this business?

2do. Whether the Judge can or ought to grant the General Warrant required.?

Answer.

By the tenth section of the "Declaration of the rights of the Inhabitants of the state of Pennsylvania," it is declared, "that the "people have a right to hold *themselves*, their houses, papers and "*possessions*, free from search or seizure; and therefore Warrants "without oaths or affirmations first made, affording a sufficient foun-"dation for them, and whereby any officer or messenger may be "commanded or required to search suspected *places*, or to seize any "*person or persons*, his or their property, not particularly described, "are contrary to that right and ought not to be granted."

The above section is conformable to the Common Law; and this case would have been pretty clear, independent of the Declaration; but that puts it beyond all doubt.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 423.

What seems to be required of the Judge exceeds any thing of the sort attempted in England, even in the most arbitrary times; for it is desired, that he should issue a warrant to an officer, who is not only to have the power of searching *any vessel* in which *he may suspect* any French Deserters to be concealed, but also to seize *any person*, whom he may suspect to be a seamen deserted from a French vessel, and thus all the vessels in the harbour may be suspected and searched, & all the persons found on board suspected and seized as Deserters.

Upon the whole therefore, we are of opinion, that the Judge neither can or ought to grant such a general warrant, and that the sheriff of the County is not competent to this business, tho' possessed of such a warrant, much less so without it; and indeed the *Jurisdiction* of the admiralty in this Case might be justly called in Question, even were the thing lawful.

THO McKEAN.
GEO BRYAN.
JONA D. SERGEANT.

Philadelphia July 10th, 1780.

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire, and the Honorable the Supreme Executive Council of the state of Pennsylvania.

Committee of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

In Committee of Congress,
Preakness, State of New Jersey, July 10, 1780.

Sir,

The Commander in Chief having laid before this Committee, letters from the Quarter Master General, and Commissary General of forage, stating the necessity of immediately forming a magazine of Short forage in the vicinity of Hudsons River. It will readily occur to your Excellency, that without this article the necessary transportation, to convey the variety of Stores, incident on a large operating army cannot be maintained. They have to entreat your earliest attention, to expedite the orders for forwarding the quantity required of your state, by the Committee. This state, by supplying the Army during the Winter, and to the present hour, is intirely exhausted. The failure of crops last year, in the state of New York and the draft made from it, for the support of the Castle at West Point, have rendered that state incapable of furnishing any for the present, so that our main reliance, at least until some time after the present crop is gathered, must be on the States south of Delaware.

We have the honor to be
with great Respect
Your Excellency's
most Ob^t Hble serv^ts
PH. SCHUYLER
NATH^l PEABODY

Directed,—His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr.

Pres. Reed to Col. Lochry 1780.

Sr,

Your Favour of the 9 Jan.* has been duly received & laid before the Council. We very much lament the Misunderstand^g which has arisen between the Command^r at Fort Pitt & the principal Inhabitants of Westmoreland. We cónsider the Appointment of a Pennsyl. Officer to that Command as a very happy Circumstance to the State considering the State of our Affairs with Virginia, and as it is highly probable that in Case of a Change some Person from that State would be appointed to that Command Policy as well as Prudence make it necessary to pass over Transactions which at another Time ought to be more fully discussed.

The ranging Companies being now dismissed unless the Assembly should think proper to raise them again the Difficulties of subsisting them must have ceased, at the same Time we wish these Difficulties had never been made as the public Service allways suffers by such Opposition & clashing of Orders. From the State you have laid before us we see nothing to disapprove in your Conduct, on the other Hand your Attention to the publick Service has added to the Esteem we before had of your Services & Merit.

The Assembly has been in Conference this Day with the Council on the Affairs of the Frontiers, but nothing being yet determined must refer any Intelligence on this Subject to a future Day. In the mean Time you & the Gentlemen of the County may rely upon a strict Attention to your Affairs & Safety as we are very sensible of the Necessity of supporting the good People on the Frontiers & making them as secure as Circumstances will admit.

We have every Reason to believe the Rigour of the Winter which has almost annihilated the Support derived by the Savages from Game must oblige them to seek Subsistance at a greater Distance from you than formerly, if so it will be a very happy & providential Event.

You will see the Propriety of keeping secret our Sentiments with respect to the Command^t at Fort Pitt & doubt not on Consideration you will see very powerful Reasons for avoiding any disgusting Measures & that you will also on such an Occasion make some Sacrifice of private Feelings to publick Necessities. I send you the late News Papers & am with much Esteem

Your Obed. Hble Ser.

J. R.

P. S. Mr Scott's Presence in Council would in the present Situation of Things be greatly advantagous to the State in general & your County in particular. We trust neither he or other Gentle-in publick Character will give any Sanction to the Proceedings of

* See page 77.

the Virginia Commissioners by acknowledging their Jurisdiction as it may be converted to the Prejudice of the public Interests.

Indorsed,
July 10, 1780.

Directed,
To Col. Arch. Lochry Lieut. of Westmoreland.

Mons. De Corny to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Providence, July 11th, 1780.
one o'Clock in the Morning.

Sir,

I have the Honor to inform your Excellency, that the French Fleet was off Newport at six o'Clock last night. I presume it is at this Time in the Harbor. I am with great Respect

Your Excellency's
Most obedient and
most humble Servant,
ESTRIS ? DE CORNY.*

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr.

Col. John Cox to Charles Pettit, 1780.

Bloomsbury, July 11th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

General Knox, when here some Days ago, by order of the Commander in Chief, impressed a number of Teams in the County of Bucks, for which, by advice of the Magistrates, in order to induce the Inhabitants the more chearfully to turn out, he agreed to pay the prices charged in the inclosed pay Roll in hard Money or an Equivalent in Conti. of which He advised his Excellency, the President of the State, at same time informing him that he had named John Oliver, of Bristol, to be applyed to by the owners of the Teams for payment, in consequence of which they are Daily teasing him for the Money. As it is probable the State may think proper to estimate those Teams as part of their Quota, called for by the Commander in Chief, it may not be amiss to lay the inclosed pay Roll before the Council, & if agreeable to them to discharge it, they will, of course, furnish you with the amount, either in hard Cash or State money, which I imagine will answer equally well, & you will please forward it thro' Col. Mitchell to Mr. Oliver, that the owners

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 424. See answer, page 416.

of the Teams may be satisfied. Col. Mitchell informs me that in consequence of a Letter from Mr. Oliver on the subject, He had a few Days since given in an Estimate for Money, in which he had included a much larger sum for that service than appears from the inclosed pay Roll to be due, not knowing the exact number of Waggons, or that the State had any thing to do in the matter. It is very possible there may have been more Teams impressed, but the inclosed contains an account of all who have applyed for payment. General Knox informed Governor Reed that so soon as the service was rendered an account would be forwarded by me for payment. You will therefore be pleased to lay the matter before Council & proceed therein as they & you may think most proper, & you will oblige

Dr Sir, Your Obed. Servt.,

JOHN COX.*

Directed,

Publick Service.

Colonel Charles Pettit, Ass^t Quarter Master Genl, Philadelphia.

United States

To Edward Welsted

1780.		Dr. Dols. pts.
June 23d.	To Sundry Expences Impressing Waggons, by order of Gen. Knox, pr Robert Adair,	196 "
	To Cash paid J. Stackhouse, for one Bushel Oats, ...	25 "
	To Cash paid Jno. Brown, for ½ Bushel Do.,	12 ½
	To Cash paid L. Gilham, for ½ Bushel Corn,	16 "
" 30.	To Impressing & Conducting the Teams 9 Days, a 120 Dollars pr Day, . .	1080 "
		1329 "
Supra.		Cr.
By Cash received of Col. Cox, ...		100 "

United States To James Seddon,

1780.		Dr.
June 23 & 24.	To 2 Days Impressing Teams a 120 Dollars pr Day, . . .	240 "
	To Sundry Expences, . . .	200 "
		440 "
Supra.		Cr.
By Cash received of Col. Runyan, . . .		100 "

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 423.

United States

To Henry Shillenberg, Dr.

1780.		
June 24 & 25.	To 2 Days Impressing Teams, a 120 Dollars pr Day, ...	240 "
	To Sundry Expences, ...	45 "
		285 "

Bristol, July 8th, 1780. A True Copy.

JNO. OLIVER, A. D. Q. M. Gen.

Pres. Reed to Col. William Scott, 1780.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 4th Inst. has been duly received, & am glad to find the Volunteers have been made up agreeable to the Law. The Inhabitants of the Frontiers are very much alarmed with Apprehensions of the Indians during the Harvest. You will, therefore, immediately direct them to march one half to Bedford County & the other to Westmoreland, when they are to be directed by the several Lieutenants of the Counties as to Station. Col. Piper is Lieutenant of Bedford, & Col. Lochry of Westmoreland.

We are sorry you sent down a Waggon for Arms as we have them not in the Store, nor are they to be procured in this City. Our Direction therefore, is that you procure as many publick Arms as possible, & of which there must be a considerable Number in the County, & if any Deficiency, that the Captain be authorized to call on the Captains of the Ranging Companies last Year for the Arms furnished them, & which were left in the Counties when those Men were discharged. The Lieutenants of these Counties must, & will, doubtless, exert themselves to procure them, & as they were Riffles they will be of more real Use than any which could be sent from here if to be procured. The same of Ammunition.

I must intreat you to exert yourself in procuring Flour as the French Fleet is hourly expected & we are at present in a very unfit Condition to receive them, for Want of that necessary Article.

Inclosed you have a Resolve of the Council for putting the Arms provided last year for the Ranging Companies into the Hands of the Volunteer Companies.

I am, Sir, Your most obedt,

& very H'bble Servt.

Indorsed,—July 12, '80.

Genl. Wm. Irvine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp, near Bumpton, July 12, 1780.

My claim to rank of General Hand, has at last been before a Board of General Officers—& the affair remains just as it was.

They have Reported that they did not think they had powers to alter the rank of any General Officer already fixed by Congress.

I presume there is no mode left now, unless the State will insist that Congress take the business up themselves—which in my opinion they (Congress) ought to have done at first had they been actuated by principles of justice—General Hand, however, argued that the State had nothing to do with it, & that Congress had a right to promote whom they pleased, and added, that neither Congress nor the State had a right to place him to any particular State. I told the Court, that as the appointment of officers was left to the States, they had a right, in the first instance, to give the preference to whom they pleased, and that if Congress had broke their own rules and made an undue promotion, the State to which the officer belonged—or *somebody*— had a right to bring them to an account for it, and that I did not know who could do it except the State. Congress once proposed, at least individuals of them, that General Hand should be considered as belonging to the States at large—now if they will fix that, and Resolve that he shall not be promoted as belonging to Pennsylvania, in case of Vacancy, rather than give any farther trouble, I will Drop the matter;—But unless this is done, I can not think of giving up a thing so manifestly derogatory to the honor of the State—so evidently unjust, & injurious to my own feelings. I am sorry to trouble your Excellency with this business, nor should I was I not persuaded you wish justice done as well to the honor of the State as to Individuals of it.—As Mr Searle has been so good as to interest himself in my favour, I shall write him, requesting he will move that a record be entered that Genl Hand shall not be promoted as belonging to the State (except if the State should now or hereafter take him in) untill the other officers who have a right to rank of him shall first be promoted.

However distant promotion may appear from either of us at present, it is best not to have it to settle at the time when it may happen—& promotion may take place in the line even this Campaign—and tho' I think I may venture to assert that I am not over anxious for it, yet it is the business of, and very natural for, a Soldier to look & press forward.

As my superiors are now here, I shall not trouble you with any thing on publick matters relative to the line—as I suppose they do.

I am, Dear Sir,

your Excellency's

most Obedient Servant,

WM. IRVINE.

Pres. Reed to Col. Francis Johnston, 1780.

To Col. Francis Johnston:

Sir,

As several of the Battalions, both in Town & Country, have not completed their Volunteers, you will please to direct the Gentlemen who have come down with you for the purpose of collecting them, to repair to the several Lieutenants of the City & County of Philad., Bucks, Chester, Lancaster & Berks, to hasten the filling their respective Complements: And also to inform themselves how far those already sent have been settled with. For this Purpose we have added the Number of Battalions in each County—and the Book kept by Col. Nicola, at the Barracks, will inform you what Battalions & Companies have complied with the Laws, by sending in their Recruits. As this Service is of the most important Nature, you will please to urge the Necessity of proceeding in it so that the Law may be fully & properly executed. Upon this, as well as every other Occasion, yourself & the Officers under your immediate Command, will receive all necessary Aid & Assistance from the Council.

I am, Sir,

Your most Obed. Hble. Servt.

Philad. City—6 Battalions, 8 Companies in each Battalion, 2 Men from each Comp'y, Col. Henry, Lieut.		Men 96
Philad. County—8 Battalions. Col. Coats, Lieut.		
Bucks, Col. Hart, Lieut.	Battalions	Men
Chester, Col. Small, Lieut.,	Battalions	
Lancaster, Col. Atlee,	Battalions	
Berks, Col. Morgan, Lieut.	Battalions	

Indorsed,

July 12, 1780.

Form of a Bill of Exchange on Minister to France, 1780.

Excha. for [300] *Dollars, at five Livres Tournois ℔ dollar. Numb.* [2.]

United States of America, [12th] Day of [July,] 1780.

At Sixty Days Sight of this Fourth of Exchange, First, Second and Third of the same Tenor and Date unpaid, pay to the Order of [His Excelly. Joseph Reed, Esqr. President of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania,] Three Hundred Mexican Dollars, or Fifteen Hundred Livres Tournois; Value received by the United States.

To the Hon. Dr. Benjamin Franklin *or the Minister Plenipotentiary of the* United States *of North America, at the Court of Versailles.*

Countersigned, [THOS. SMITH.]

[F. HOPKINSON,]

Commissioner of the Continental Loan-Office, in the State of [*Pennsylvania.*]

*Treasr. of Loans.**

[*Indorsed*—Jos. Reed, President.]

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 422. The words in [] are written.

Andrew Doz to Pres. Reed, 1780.

His Excellency the President and the Honorable Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen,

Inclosed is a return of the articles purchased by me during the time my health permitted me to act under the appointment of Commissioner of purchases for the City of Philadelphia, likewise a return of articles procured by me while acting as Commissioner of Supplies for the army until the Law under which I had the honor to be appointed was suspended by Proclamation

The time agreed on for payment of Mr. William McCulloh and Company's bill for forty eight barrels Beef and fifteen of Pork agreeable to the order of Council is nearly expired; must beg to be informed whether it will be most eligible to pay them in the state money of the last emission of which I have sufficient on hand or whether you would not prefer the drawing an order on the state Treasurer for the amount in Continental currency agreeable to Contract.

Having been informed that the Honorable House of assembly have it in contemplation to pass an act for the sale of the state Island and other Lots belonging to the Publick at their next sitting, I have taken the Liberty to request (should such an act be carried into effect) your interest to obtain the appointment of Commissioner of sales as I am entirely destitute of business and wish by your continued indulgence and kindness to be usefully employed in such service for the public as my health will admit; with sentiments of gratitude and respect.

I am Gentlemen,
your most Obdt. Hble. Sevt.
ANDREW DOZ.

Philadelphia July 12th 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire, President of the state of Pennsylvania.

Council to Francis Hopkinson, 1780.

In Council, Philada. July 13th, 1780.

Sir,

In consequence of your late application to this Board founded on the request of ye. Vice Consul of France to issue a General Search warrant, to inspect ships for deserters from the French Vessels in this Port, I am now to inform you that we have taken the advice of the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General who are unanimously of opinion, such warrant cannot be granted consistent with the Laws and Constitution of this State. And that the Juris-

diction of the admiralty is doubtful in such a case, supposing the measure in itself legal. It is therefore the advice of this Board that in a case of farther application you will act in conformity to this opinion explaining the same so as to give all possible satisfaction to the officers of His Most Christian Majesty, and giving all legal and proper aid, in the discharge of their several duties.

I am with due consideration,

Your most obedient and,
very humble servant
JOS. REED President.

Hoonble Francis Hopkinson, Esqr.

JOHN THOMSON TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Carlisle, July 13th, 1780.

Sir,

I am Just arived from the frunteeres and have paid off the officers and solders of the three Companeys, and have mustered several Companeys of vollenteeres for two months, by order of the Lieuts. of the Countey, and I understand that there Is a bodey of Vollenteeres milittia Raised for the frunteeres, I would be fond to know whether I am apointed for them or not, as I understood I was Muster master for the milittia, as I may hold myself in Redeness, If knot It would Give me pleasur to serve my Contrey in any poste Equal to my Rank.

Byfore this time I supose that you have Reed. a letter from Col. Lochry Concerning an Expodition against an Indian town that Lay neere to them, that Col Broadhead destroyed last year, and as we find we would be Joined by a number of people that will not bee able to suport themselves, this Expodition is thought will bee of great service if Carried on immediately after harvist and I think we will not bee able to goe on unless suported with provisions and horsies by the state.

If your honnour and Council thinck proper to incorrage this Expodition the Quicker I receve an answer will bee the better as we have kept it as a secrit that we may Joine to get things in order as we would need to have a number of biskits provided as the parson is in heast, I am knot able to give the full acct. of what we intend but I supose by Col Locherey Letter and this you will be able to make out our intent.

I am with Due Respect,
your obedient Humble Servt.
JOHN THOMSON.

To the Hon. Joseph Reed, President.

Indorsed,

July 13th 1780.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 409, 423, and page 403 of this

Gen. Washington to Committee of Co-operation, 1780.

(Copy.)
Head Quarters, July 18th, 1780.

Gentlemen,

We have received intelligence through different channels from New York, that the Gaudaloupe had arrived there on Sunday morning and brought an account that she had fallen in with a large French fleet, consisting of several sail of the line, and a number of transports, between the Capes of Virginia and Delaware. This intelligence has every appearance of authenticity; and if true, the arrival of the Fleet on the coast may instantly be looked for. This indeed must be the case at any rate, from the time they are said to have sailed.

It cannot be too much lamented that our preparations are still so greatly behind hand. Not a thousand men that I have heard of have yet joined the Army and in all probability the period for commencing our operations is at hand. I am happy to learn that a spirit of animation has diffused itself throughout the States, from which we may expect the happiest consequences: But the exigency is so pressing that we ought to multiply our efforts to give new activity and dispatch to our measures—levying and forwarding the men, providing the supplies of every sort required; forage and transportation demand particular attention. After what has been preconcerted with the Honble The Congress, after two months previous notice of the intended succour, if our allies find us unprepared, and are obliged to wait several weeks in a state of inaction, it is easy to conceive how unfavourable the impressions it will make of our conduct. Besides this the season is exceedingly advanced—a decisive enterprize, if our means are equal to it, will not permit us to lose a moment of the time left for military operations, which if improved with all the vigor in our power is less than were to be wished, for an undertaking of so arduous and important a nature—So much is at stake—so much to be hoped—so much to be lost—that we shall be inexcusable if we do not employ all our zeal and all our exertion.

With the highest respect & esteem
I have the honor to be
your most Obed^t
& Hble Servant,
G^o WASHINGTON.

Directed,
The Committee for Co-operation. (Cop.)

Wm. Smith to Robert Morris Esq., 1780.

Baltimore, July 14, 1780.

Robert Morris, Esqr.,

Sir,

Inclosed you have receipt for 7 Cases of muskets for the State of Pensylvania addressed to you, a part of those have been oppened & Cleaned, & a part has not. I could not get them done with that dispatch that I thought the times required, they have been Valued at 300 Dolars, a certificate of which with the charges, shall be forwarded you next opportunity.

I am Dr Sir, your

most hble Sert

W. SMITH.

Directed,

Robert Morris Esqr., Merchant, Philad.

2 Stage with
7 Cases of Musquets.

Lewis Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, July 14, 1780.

Sir,

Two deserters from the Anspachers are just come to me and say, they left the English Army nine days since at Philips manor, where they were Employ'd collecting fuel & forage and making a new and shorter road to Kingsbridge. Say the Army was call'd Eight thousand, but they do not think they are so Strong. Desertion is very considerable among the foreigners. They do not know of any Excursions of consequence made by the Enemy since they occupied their present Ground, neither have they done any damage of consequence in the Neighbourhood. They heard a heavy firing on Wednesday last, and were told in the Jerseys, that the French fleet was at the Hook.

I am with Respect

your Excellencies

most Obedt Servant,

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Henry Haller to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Reading, July 15th, 1780.

May it please your Excellency,

As usual I applied this Day to the Issuing Comr to issue Rations to a Number of Carters engaged to drive the Teams drawn out of this County in Consequence of your Order to me of the 24th Ult. and recd for Answer that the Provisions remaining in Store would not be sufficient to supply the Post four Days longer. I have no Money to advance to the Carters, what must be done, how shall they live?

I am Sir

Your Excellency humble Servt

HENRY HALLER.

Indorsed,

1770, July 15th. From Henry Haller, Waggon Master, Berks Coy.

Pres. Reed to Mons. De Corny, 1780.

Sir,

I am to acknowledge your several Favours of the 4th & 11th Inst.* received by the same Express & thank you particularly for your obliging Communication of the Arrival of the French Fleet—May God grant Success to our united Arms & cement the Connection so happily formed between the two Countries.

Far from making the least Difficulty Sir, in settling the Money borrowed from this State we shall receive it whenever your Agent shall offer it & can only express our Concern that our good intentions have not produced more beneficial Effects.

I also beg Leave to inclose you a Copy of a Letter sent Mr Holker on this Subject upon his intimating to us the Difficulties of passing the State Money, we are since fully confirmed in the Sentiments therein expressed. In Answer he verbally expressed his Desire to keep it longer & we have since received a £500 Sterlg Bill on this Account. But it would be much more agreeable to us to receive the Money & close the Transaction than that the Honour & Credit of the State should suffer as we fear it has done from the manner of circulating it in Lancaster County, or that your Affairs should be in the least embarrassed.

The Confidence in every Species of Paper has been so considerably shaken that it will probably be some Time before it will regain its former Credit, but we have great Reason to believe that in a little Time this Money will have a universal, as at present it has a very general Circulation—notwithstanding the Discouragements which it has met with in some particular Instances.

* Col. Rec. Vol. XII, pp. 424, 425. And pages 383, 406, of this.

I shall take an early Opp^y to wait on the Chev. Luserne & receive any communication he may make on this Subject & am

with much Respect & Consideration

Your Obed. & very

Hble Servt.

Indorsed,

July 17. To Mons. De Corny, Commissary of France.

Nicholas Lutz to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Reading, 17th July, 1780.

Sir,

Agreeable to your Proclamation of the 5th Inst, I have sent you enclosed herewith, all the ungranted Certificates, shall transmit my Acc^t to you for settlement, as soon as I receive a receipt from the Commissary Genl. of Purchases for the last parcel of Sheep I sent him by Mr David Davis.

I am Your Excellency's

Most Obed^t Hbl. Servant,

NICHOLAS LUTZ,

C^r of P. B. Co^y.

(Public Service.)

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philada.

Col. Matthew Smith to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Paxtang, July 17th, 1780.

Sir,

This Day I Rec^d your favour of the 6th Inst by Mr. Reese of Northum^d Town, I am Truly sorry for ye Situation of His Excel^y Genl. Washington; & his Brave Little Army our affairs at present are Somewhat Dark—But I am Confident we shall have light Again & Perhaps as in times past from a Quarter we Do not as yet Expect it.

You Mention Sir, you cannot understand the meaning of the People Swearing they will not pay the Taxes,—I Apprehend my meaning, or Letter was not understood, as I Did not mean the Continental or Publick Taxes, but only that Tax laid for Paying the Bounty of those Men lately Rais^d; out of the Militia Companys—My intention in Mentioning the Matter to Your Exc^y was not to Give offence But in Complyance with a former Request, viz., to take Every Oppertu-

nity to inform Council the Situation and Sentiments, Both of the Country & the People—the Genl Assembly Sometimes in the Laws or Preamble of the Laws are not Quite so plain as could be Wished, the Law for Raising the two men Seems to be Expressly for the Defence of the Frontiers, this Law Being Imediately Printed & Scattered through the Different Countys, Gave the People an oppertunity when Collected in the Companys of Seeing it and Chearfully Adopted the Plan, I Do not know any Denomination that Did not Chearfully Agree to Submit to the Law, till the Men were Ordered to Camp, & then as I Wrote in my last, I Assure you it Created uneasyness in the Breasts of a Number, not only the People Hireing But the People Hired. Your Acquaintance with Mankind I am Certain will Convince you, how Easy it is for Numbers of people to be Alarmed with Matters of Small Consequence and Certainly much more So, in a Time & place of such Dreadful War, as is Carry^d on by Indians on the Frontier Settlements, When the life of Almost Every person is Every Moment in Danger, & oftentimes not knowing Danger Near them, till the Tomahawk or Scalping knife is drove into the Head, & Butcher^d inhumanely often merely for their Diversion. Dr Sir, whilst I take the Liberty to Mention these things to you Rest Assur^d it is no part of my Sentiments Either here or in Northum^d County. I in Some Measure know what your Scituation is, as well as the Rest of the Gentlemen in the Council have to combat with, & often Silently but very Sensibly feel Both for Men & things.

The Money I Drew last year for Raising the Rangers, was Distributed According to Direction, the Rec^ts I Gave to Mr Rittenhouse in April last, & would have left them with him in the Winter But in hopes to have Rec^d the Cash from Captn Collier, to have it Return^d to the Treasury but Could not, therefore I Return^d his Rec^t also.—A line from Council to Captn Collier I Doubt not would hurry him to Return the Cash.

As for the Amunition Forwarded to Paxtang June 1779 you will See by the Order of Council it was for the use of Lancaster & Cumberland Countys in Case North^d Broke up I my Self Obtain^d the Order, & if I Remmember it is Expressive; if Council Judge it most Necessary to Send it to Col^o Hunter, or a part, I will take Care to have your Order Immediately Comply^d with.

The Amunition Mention'd Sent in April last, has not Come to hand Neither to Col^o Cox nor Col^o Hunter, & am Apprehensive it did not Come from Philadelphia. About the 20th of Aprile I was in Phil^a, & Captn Hambright Mention^d he had an Order from Council for Amunition, but at that time Could not Get a Waggon to Carry it to Esthertown, and Since I Came from Sunbury I Call^d on Col^o Cox at the Request of Col^o Hunter, who inform^d me no Amunition had Arriv^d this Summer for North^d County But a few Boxes of Cartridges, & they were Imediately forwarded to Col^o Weltner for the use of his Reg^t. I Expect to Go for Sunbury in two weeks or less if

any Orders in any of the Above Mentioned things they Shall Be Strictly Comply^d with.

I am Dr Sir,

with all Due Submission

your Most Ob^t & very Hum^l Servt,

MATT^w SMITH.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsyl^a

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Pres. Reed to Pres. of Congress, 1780.

In Council, Pa., July 17th, 1780.

Sir,

On the 1st June last Congress were pleased to give us a very animating & pleasing Mark of their approbation of our Conduct in forwarding Supplies to the Army, & the Beneficial Effects of our Exertions have since been frequently & particularly acknowledged from the Camp. We had Reason to expect that it might have been an Earnest of future Confidence, & that no one possessed of tolerable Information & Candour would have suspected, much less have charged us with a Neglect of the general Interests, accompanied with an Insinuation that any publick Misfortunes or Disgrace would be justly ascribed to us. But, Sir, the inclosed Letter from your Committee at Camp shows that no Services, no Exertions, no Sacrifices of private Ease, Interest, or even Health itself, can exempt us from unmerited Reproach.

We beg Leave to say that nothing is more painful to us than to enter into these Discussions, & form invidious Comparisons between this State & others. But we can appeal to the Knowledge of every one whose Opp^ns give him a Right to judge that in Troops, Cloathing, Refreshments, Supplies to the Qr. Masters & Commissaries Departments & Advances to the United States of various kinds we can bear a Comparison with any State in the Union. Are we not called upon in every Exigency, & in what Instance have we declined our Exertions? After Government has stretched its Influence & power to the utmost, have not private Citizens, & even our Women borne a Part of the Publick Burthen? Have not Persuasion, legal & arbitrary Force been successively used in this State, within the knowledge of Congress, to effect the publick Purposes, & are we now to be treated as regardless of the publick Welfare, & threatened to be hung up to the World as Spectacles of political Infamy? Sir, our Feelings are exceedingly hurt by such Treatment, which in every point of View is unjust & unnecessary, and as we are extremely anxious to remove the Imputation, we hope Congress will pardon our entering into a short Detail on this Occasion.

On the 8th June we received a Letter from the Committee at Camp, requiring Supplies of Men & Provisions, Horses & Waggons, in Addition to those required by Congress the 25th Feb., & we were desired to ascertain the Number of Men & Quantity of Supplies to be furnished in a given Time & to give assurances *founded on Experience* that such Supplies should be continued. The Committee then proceed to a Requisition on this State, amounting in current Prices to £665,142 7 6, or 106,422,780 dollars Continental Money (exclusive of Transportation & Expence of Collection) which is full 19 Years from Taxes of the State in Time of profound Peace & with a flourishing Trade. To which, if we add the Expences of civil Government, Cloathing, Refreshments of the Army & Support of the Frontiers, will be little short of one half of the whole Money emitted by Congress, & we believe more than all the circulating Cash of the whole State. Whatever Opinions we formed of the Magnitude of those Requisitions, & however sensible of the Physical as well as moral Improbability of exact Compliance we determined to do every thing in our power to draw forth the Supplies of the State, & accordingly took every Measure for that Purpose, requiring the Commissioners of Purchase to make monthly Returns to us of their Progress. Soon after we were favoured with a Letter from your Excell'y requesting Information on sundry Points enumerated, & that the Presid. would correspond weekly with the Committee at Camp. In a few Days after this one of the Committee from Camp had a Conversation with the President of the State on the Affairs of the Army, & received every Information which he thought proper to ask, & at parting a solemn assurance that nothing would be omitted to forward the supplies. One of the Delegates of the State in Congress, now absent, also took down a Number of particulars from the Council, which we understood were communicated in Congress on the Hearing of that member of the Committee who remained in Town till the Beginning of this Month, & yet on the 13th, without seeking further Satisfaction, signed the Letter inclosed. Another Member has since come to Town, to whom this Intelligence could not have appeared so important, as no such Inquiry has been made or Information sought for several Days since his Arrival. We cannot help, therefore, fearing the Committee have indulged some personal or publick Resentment to which we are not conscious of affording any Cause, and have sought occasion to discredit the Councils & Administration of this State without duly adverting to Facts or Consequences.

We acknowledge that we have been requested by Congress, by the Commander in Chief & by the Committee to inform them what Progress we made in the specific Supplies demanded, & it was Intended to afford it as soon as we were possessed of Materials for this Purpose. We can easily form a Splendid List of Expectations & Promises founded on our own Wishes & Conjectures, but is this the Information desired, so far from it this very Committee request they *may be ascertained, & assurance given, founded on Experience.*"

In order to make it certain & give these assurances we must wait for Intelligence & Returns from our Commissioners, who reside in distant Counties, where there are no regular Posts, & other Conveyances are uncertain. It also frequently happens that these Commissioners are absent from their own Homes a Week at a Time on this Business, & cannot be expected to correspond with mercantile Punctuality. We refer it to the candid Judgment of any unprejudiced Person whether it has been possible, in so extensive a State, many of our Commissioners residing above 100 Miles, & the most considerable above 60 from this Place, in the space of about 3 Weeks, to obtain that accurate Information which the Committee requested. But we have not acknowlged the Receipt of their Letters, neither have we those from Congress, or the General, on this subject, because however it may be a Duty of private Civility, we have never understood, nor has it been before expected from publick Bodies barely to acknowledge the delivery of Letters. If we are mistaken it was an Error in Judgment, which we should have rectified upon the slightest Intimation. Before the Committee, therefore, thought proper to express their Resentment in so indignant a Strain we think they should have requested the Acknowledgment our Omission of which has hurt their feelings so much. Struggling, as Congress must be sensible we are, with Numbers of disaffected in the very Bowels of the State; our Government weakened by an unwearied Opposition, to whose Views a Part of your Committee are, we believe, very favourably disposed; the Frontiers incessantly & clamorously demanding farther Support of Men, Money & Provisions to defend them against the Savages, & devoting ourselves to the publick Cause without the Intermission of a single Day, (Sunday frequently included) it is very hard & not a little discouraging to be held out to the Army as we have Reason to think we have been, & as we hereafter may be to the World, as the Author or at least the Causes of Misfortunes which it is impossible for us to prevent. We have experienced the Justice & Candour of Congress on former Occasions, we rely upon it again, & beg Leave to assure your Excell'y that neither Labour, Property, Influence, or even the Regard of Life itself, shall be wanting, if required in the common Cause. We know that it would be an unfavourable Intrusion on the publick Business to read all the inclosed Papers in Congress, but we cannot help requesting a select Committee would peruse them; they are a Part of the Letters of a single Month only on the Subject of Supplies, & will show that no argument or Motive has been left unessayed by us to answer the views & Expectations of Congress at this important Crisis. And had the Committee been as disposed to approve as to censure, they would, while they were doing the latter, have informed Congress that on the late Exigency for Teams to transport Flour from Trenton, the County of Bucks, in 24 Hours, furnished a very considerable Number, the Inhabitants cheerfully leaving their Work, in a busy Season, to assist in the publick Service; and that now 500 fine, unexcep-

tionable Recruits (only a part of our quota,) have been thrown into the Pennsylva. Line on the course of three Weeks. What we shall do farther we must beg Leave to defer till we have some substantial Ground to go upon. In the mean Time we leave it to the Wisdom of Congress to express their Opinion to the Committee in such Manner as they think most conducive to the publick Good. We are unwilling to enter into any altercation with them, being fully sensible that precious Time is often wasted & true Harmony seldom effected by such Discussion.

We now beg Leave to conc'ude with one short Observation. That we find from Experience & the Nature of our Governments, if we would insure success we must convey a general Knowledge & secure a general Approbation of our Measures among the People, & that such coercion & Imitation, especially with well disposed Minds, frequently disappoint & retard our desired Purposes, this has been, & ever will be the Case with all free Governments, & operates most powerfully with us, where all the firmer Bonds of Govern^t have been dissolved & the new not sufficiently sanctified & established by Habit & Opinion. I have the Honour to be, with the greatest Respect & Regard.

Your Excelly's Obed^t & very H'bble.

Indorsed, 1780, July 17th. To His Excellency, Samuel Huntington, Esq., President of Congress.

Instructions to Col. Nicola, 1780.

Sir,

Being anxious to promote voluntary Inlistment & fill up the Line of Pennsylvania we have concluded to attempt inlisting Recruits for the War for a Bounty in Land & Specie, viz 200 Acres of good Land & 3 half Johannes for every able bodied Recruit, free from Rupture Lameness or other Disorder, not more than 45 nor less than 18 Years of Age.*

No Deserter from the British Army or Navy or Prisoner of War Apprentices or indented Servants to be admitted to enter.

You will also avoid inlisting Sailors & Foreigners, and more especially Frenchmen on any Pretext.

Besides the above you are authorized to promise a Suit of Cloaths yearly & Blanket, a Pint of Rum ℔ Week, with Tobacco, Soap & sundry other Necessaries with Pay & Rations as the Continental Troops—They are to serve under the immediate Command of Gen. Washington.

As an Encouragement to the Sergeant he will have a Spanish Dollar or 60 Dollars Continental for every Recruit he inlists who passes muster.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 481.

And the Officer under whose Direction the Inlistment is made will be entitled to 200 Dollars Continental Money for his Care & Trouble.

You will be particularly careful not to suffer any unfair Practices of catching Persons by putting Money in their Pockets, or such like Acts, but inlist them fairly & openly.

Every Recruit, Care being taken that he is quite sober, is to be attested before Mr. Justice Miller, swearing that he will be true & faithful to the United States of America, & that he will serve as a Soldier during the present War in the Line of Pennsylvania & that he will be obedient to his superior Officers according to the Rules of Discipline & War.

You will once a week or oftener report your Progress & take all due Care that no Recruits desert on Board any Vessel, for this End you will only deliver one half Johanna as the Inlistment, one when attested & the other when he is received & enroled in the Regim^t.

Indorsed,—1780, July 18.—To Col. Lewis Nicola, His recruting Instructions.

Pres. Reed to Col. Sam'l Atlee, 1780.

Philad^a, July 19, 1780.

Sir,

It is with real Pleasure I sit down to comply with the Request of the Council & thank you for the complete & regular Manner in which you have furnished the Volunteers of Lancaster County. We are sensible that it was a Work of no small Difficulty & Trouble in a Country where the Habits, Manners & Opinions of the People are so generally disinclined to military Duties & Arrangements & of which Lancaster County has so great a Share.—We can truly say that no County has furnished such good Men & such regularity in forwarding them & which we impute in a great Degree to your good Management & Care.—Capt Hubley went on to Camp & gave great satisfaction from the Manner in which he executed his Orders.*

I am with due Regard

Sir your Obed^t & very Hble Servt

Directed,

To Col. Samuel J. Atlee, Lieut. of Lancaster County,

Pres. Reed to Col. Wm. Henry, 1780.

Sir,

I duly received your favour of the 3d Inst. & should be sorry that any thing in my Letter to Col. Atlee of the 1st Inst. should be construed into a suspicion of the Delay of Taxes in your County to arise from any Neglect much more misconduct in you. I assure you I have even entertained far different sentiments & should have done

* See answer, page 438.

you much Injustice if I could have supposed you to employ the publick Money in trade or otherwise. Mr. Rittenhouse's Report was made in writing & I presume on competent Authority—my Remark was general having no particular Person in View nor do I know why Col. Atlee sent the Paragraph to you unless he supposed you would use it as a stimulus to the Commissaries, Collectors & others.

But I cannot agree with you that more is expected from Lancaster County than it can perform, because no more is expected than the Law has appointed & which her own Representatives have thought she could raise within a given Time. I beg to know my good friend why Lancaster county cannot pay her taxes proportionally with other Counties—has she suffered by the enemy—has Famine, Pestilence Tempest or bad seasons deprived her of the Means—you will agree with me in the negative. Are not her lands good & the County populous? did she not at the last Review of Property appear so considerable as to have almost double the number of Representatives of most of the other Counties—even those who have contributed more to the publick Necessities than she has done, you will also agree with me in this. But I fancy I can throw some light on the subject there is not a Week but some People from your County are purchasing Gold & Silver in the city, and that is hoarded up as too sacred to be touched for Taxes. The Collectors finding Opposition & Difficulty neglect their Duty & the Commissaries do not care to be the only severe People & so all is slow tedious & dilatory—If vigour & seasonable exertion could once take place all these Difficulties would vanish.

The Commissaries proceeded to lay the Tax you observe & were mistaken till they were set right, but the real Fact is they undertook to dispense with the law & tax on a system of their own, in this way Delays would be perpetual & unexcusable.

The Inclemency of the Winter we can readily admit as a Reason but it is now several months since the snow disappeared & is there not at this Moment a great arrearage; surely there is—the Want of which we feel most sensibly. The large sums owing by Qr Master's & Commissaries will doubtless be a Bar of no inconsiderable Nature to ready money Taxes but they will go to liquidate the Demands of Congress & so far be useful. I fear there will be great abuses & shall be glad of your Opinion what Preventive may be used.

Far from doubting your Zeal & activity in the Business, I can only wish that all concerned in the Collection of Taxes had half of it & I am persuaded our affairs would be in a more promising Condition.

I am with much esteem,
Sir your obed. & very
Hble Ser.

Directed,
William Henry, Esq., Lancaster.
Indorsed,
July 19, 1780.

Pres. Reed to Brig. Genl. Hand, 1780.

Philada. July 19, 1780.

Sir,

I duly received your Favour of the 12th Inst. out of Respect to your & Col. Butler's Recommendation on this Head, The Council have consented to their Appointment, but I must on this Occasion as I have done on others suggest Caution to the Commanding officers of Regiments on taking in young Gentlemen to do Duty previous to an Appointment. You, sir, are too well acquainted with the Rules of established Armies not to be sensible that it is unprecedented & that many Inconveniences will ensue, Gen. Sullivan has done on this Occasion what the Commander in Chief has never done. However it being done we will not disappoint the Gentleman of their Companies, but we certainly shall do so in any future Case.

Col. Butler's Conduct & Behaviour has on all occasions been too acceptable to us to suppose he would intentionally act otherwise, we respect him as a valuable deserving officer & shall on all occasions shew him attention accordingly.

I am Sir with much esteem,

Your most obed. & very

Hble servt.*

Directed,

Brig. Gen. Hand.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, July 19, 1780.

Sir,

The board have the honor to lay before your Excellency, & the honble, the Council, the copy of a letter from Col. Henry Haller, Com'y of Prisoners at Reading, mentioning a great scarcity of provisions at that post; where there are about one hundred prisoners of war.

The board take the liberty to request that orders may be given to the state purchasers, or commissioners to deliver to the Issuing commissary at Reading as much provisions as may be necessary for the subsistence of the supplies to be furnished by Penn^a, for the army.

I have the honor to be

With high respect, y^r

Excellency's most obed. humble serv.

by order, BEN. STODDERT, Sec'y.

Directed,

His Excellency, President Reed, present.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 427.

Copy of a Letter from Henry Haller, Esq. 1780.

Copy of a Letter from Henry Haller Esq., Commissary of Prisoners at Reading, dated July 15 1780.

Sir,

"This day the issuing Commissary informed me that he had not Provisions enough to last the Prisoners confined in this Place four days, and that he had no assurance of getting any, this being the Circumstance I cannot avoid troubling you on the Occasion and if there is not a supply, I shall be obliged to let the prisoners now confined in Goal go to work with the farmers and therefore cannot be accountable for them."

Directed,

Col. Pickering.

Bres. Reed to Gen. Greene, 1780.

Philad., July 19, 1780.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 15 Inst.* came to Hand last Evening, wherein you request Information (in the most particular Manner the Nature of the Thing will admit) what Measures are taken to provide the Articles required by the Committee, when they will be ready—& where collected.—In answer to the first, we on the June called for 250 Waggons, to be furnished by the Counties in Quotas;—the Orders for this Purpose were issued; some of them have come in—& put in the Hands of your Officers, after finding great Difficulty in procuring Forage & Provisions from the Continental Officers, who, not being apprized of their Destination or Use, (of which we cannot inform them) are at a Loss what to do with them. Commissioners have been appointed to procure Forage, & Orders also given with Respect to Horses; what Progress they have made we do not know, because the Time has not been sufficient since the Requisition was made, viz., the 8th June, to make any considerable Tryal, & much less to have any Returns & Reports made on which any Dependence can be placed—But that nothing might be omitted by us, soon after the Resolution of February was past, an Act of Assembly was also passed, appointing Commissioners to purchase the Articles specified in that Resolution; £100,000 was struck on the Credit of the State for that Purpose, & the General gave Directions where the Supplies were to be sent, a part to distant Posts, & the Remainder to the Army. These Commissioners have been acting ever since; but the Money meeting with Discouragement & Discredit from many, & even those who had agreed to take it, occasions Delay & Difficulty. To stimulate & give them an Object, we have now assigned each County

* Not found.

its Quota of the Articles required. But the Demand is so enormous, so far beyond the just Proportion & Ablility of this State, that we have no Expectation of complying with it fully—This will be evident when it is considered that, exclusive of Transportation & Expense of Collection, it will amount to considerably more than half the Money emitted by Congress since the Commencement of the War, & we believe a greater Sum than all the circulating Money of the whole State. For your Satisfaction have sent you a Calculation formed on the Prices when fixed by Congress, & when not in current Prices—In the whole, including the Expences of Civil Government, Cloathing ur Officers, Refreshments & Supplies of various Kinds, amounts to 25 years' Taxes of the State in Time of Peace, & with a flourishing Trade. It is unnecessary after this, to say that this Requisition must be partial or extravagant, & that it cannot be complied with in its fullest Extent. Nor is it possible for us to say to what Extent, untill we receive Information from the several Officers among whom we have divided the Demands, & upon whom we have also called to say how far they can be complied with—by which we do not mean a mere voluntary or even moral, but a Physical Possibility. I must also observe another very great Difficulty which occurs in giving the precise Information which we would wish to do on this & every Occasion: that the Supplies of the State are drawn off by other Channells with which we have not any Communication, but act entirely independent of us. The Commissary of France is making Purchases, & gains a Preference of the Market by dealing in Specie.—An Association of Individuals officially unknown to Governm^t & holding no Communications with it, is also formed to supply the Army in some of the Articles among others enumerated for your Department. It is possible to form a Judgment of what the State could do, if the whole was under any general Direction, to which these several Exertions would be subservient & assisting—but when there are such a Variety of Draughts independent & unknown to each other, it is impossible to ascertain any Supply with tolerable Accuracy.

The Dependance on Pensylv^a is too great, & has been undoubtedly created under a Combination of Errors, Want of due information interested, political, & even Party Views; it may, perhaps, have its Effects in discrediting the Councils of Government, so far as they are to be discredited by not performing Impossibilities; but we fear it will also lead to other Consequences, material & fatal.

We do not like to deal in Conjectures, wherein our own Wishes & Desires may mislead us; but after assuring you that nothing in our Power will be omitted, we will venture to state what Proportion of Supplies may be expected from this State, if Means of Payment can be found in Part, so as to draw Credit for the Residue.—We hope to be able to execute the Requisition of Congress of the 25 Feb^y, paying a due Consideration to the Posts in the Country & on the Frontiers, which are indispensably necessary, & whom we, therefore, include as entitled to a Part of the Supplies agreeable to an Appro-

priation made by the Commander in Chief. We hope to be able to furnish you with 1000 Horses & 250 Teams; but of the latter we are in more Doubt than any other Article, as your Department has for 4 Years drawn its principal Supplies—so that the State is exceedingly exhausted. Lancaster County, which formerly registered 1700, now has not 500, & the other Counties in the same Proportion—The Waggon Service of the State, for which we never got Pay nor Thanks, has been a Burthen nearly equal to all our Taxes.

These I have given you as authentick Information, and as particular as the Nature of the Thing will admit;—but to *ascertain & give Assurances founded upon Experience* as the *Committee* at Camp have required, would take Time to make the Experiment, & further Time to collect the necessary Intelligence, as well as to digest & communicate it.

We experience a very sensible Defect in this Plan of specifick Supplies, in that the Principals of the Qr Master's & Commissary's Department do not sufficiently participate of the Correspondence; was it carried on thro' their Medium they would of course make suitable Arrangements with their Deputies & Assistants; whereas, at present, the latter having no Knowledge of the Matter, are at a Loss to make the proper Issues, keep regular Entries, & do what we must necessarily depend upon them for.

I am, in Behalf of the Council,

and with much Esteem,

Sir, Your most obed.

& very Hble. Servt.

Francis Swaine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, July 19th, 1780.

Sir,

Lately I had the Honor to receive your Excellency's Orders, to repair to Camp, to Issue the remaining part of the State Clothing on hand, Soon after my Arrival there, was Arrested by the Comanding Officer of the Pennsylv. Line, and Charged with absenting myself from Camp without leave, neglect of Duty, abuse & fraud.

When I receiv'd your Excellency's Instructions to Officiate on the Duty of Sub. Clothier to the State, I did not Conceive myself answerable to any authority, but that of your Excellency & the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania, from whom and your Excellency alone, have I been directed in my Office from time to time.

Your Excellency was pleas'd in a former Conversation to acquaint me with my Duty, viz., that my time would be divided occasionally between Camp & the City, as Clothing should be Issued & supplies wanted for the troops. Under this Supposition it was that I left

Camp without a special Furlough from the Commanding Officer, and which even then I should have not done, had not the Clothing altogether been Issued, & no particular duty in Camp requir'd my presence. Your Excellency no doubt is acquainted with the proceedings of the Court & final sentence, I must submit to it, but Cannot help making my first observation, that had I not relied on your Excellency's Instructions, that my duty would be alternatively in the City & Camp, and my oppinion that I was only under the particular Direction of your Excellency & Council, this affair would not have turn'd out so unfavourable to me.

While I was in the City frequent Orders were sent to me by your Excellency & Council to Issue Clothing so that it was a matter of the greatest surprise to me to be arrested for being from Camp, when at the same time I was doing my Duty here, & receiving Orders from your Excellency & Council.

I am now ready to come to a final settlement & Deliver up my papers & Vouchers, at the same time permit me to intreat your Excellency & Council to favor me with the pay due me, my travelling & other expenses have been great and far beyond what I Conceived when I Undertook the office.

I shall submit it intirely to your Excellency's Justice & Equity, what allowance ought to be made to me Considering the Depreciation which has taken place since my appointment.

I have the Honor to be

With every sentiment of respect

your Excellency most Obedient

& Very Humble servant,

FRANCIS SWAINE.

P. S. As my stay in the City, where I arrived last night, is very expensive it will be a particular favor to me, to be Dispatch'd as soon as Possible.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President, Market Street.

PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Philadelphia, July 19, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency will observe by the Papers, and Act of Congress of the 18th Instant herewith enclosed, that the Petition of Thomas Jones &c.,* and the Case of others in similar Circumstances are referred to the President and Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, to grant such Relief as they shall judge just and reasonable.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 427.

Your Excellency's Despatches of yesterday are received, and shall be laid before Congress this morning.

I have the Honour to be
with the highest Respect
your Excelly's most obedt. Servt.,
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

Directed,
His Excelly, President Reed.

Pres. Reed to Henry Haller, 1780.

Sir,

I have received both your Favours of the 12 & 15* Inst. which should have answered sooner but the Post went off without calling: With Respect to the former we hoped Mr Lutz would have supplied the Teams with Flour to be carried to Easton to form a magazine there agreeable to Gen. Washington's Orders or if no Arrangement is made for such magazine to proceed to Camp deliver their Flour to the Commissary there & then apply to the Qr Master Genl for further Orders. If Mr Lutz cannot load them they must proceed to Camp as they are. With Respect to the Provisions we flattered ourselves that the Commissioners of Purchases & the issuing Commissary had settled that Point but if not you must apply to Mr Lutz who must supply you untill the Orders of the Board of War arrive which I this Day procured & which I trust will remove your Difficulties on this Head.

The General has made a considerable Demand for Horses we shall be glad to know how many you think Berks County could furnish on a short Notice. They are to be purchased.

I am Sir
Your Friend & Hble ser.

P. S. Since writing the above which should have gone by Yesterdays Post have recd your favour of the 18th Instant. I have been always apprehensive of great difficulties in calling out Waggons and therefore kept back the orders as long as possible. But the General and Committee are so pressing that I could not forbear. We have been expressly told that the success of the Campaign depends upon it and that we shall be answerable to the World for all consequences, I therefore can only add that you must do as well as you can and that we will give you all the assistance possible. The taxes have been so low that we can do little for you with continental money but we have some state money which in spite of the attempts of the Enemies of Government gets into good circulation at

* See page 416.

the Exchange of sixty for one. We would endeavour to spare you some of this if you cannot do without it. The Board of War have sent us a Copy of your letter about Prisoners we have applied to them to give us an account of your demands and we will direct Luts to keep you supplied as soon as we have their plan of distribution.

Directed,

To Col. Haller, Reading, Berks County.

Indorsed,

July 20, 1780.

Pres. Reed to Francis Swaine, 1780.

Sir,

I received your Letter of this Day,* & am sorry for your misfortune which I apprehend has proceeded from too great an attachment to the city which has induced you to stay longer from Camp than was consistent with publick service. By referring to your appointment you will observe that the Dismission of the Sub-Clothier was put intirely in the General's Power, & that the appointment only remained with us. The best Thing you can now do will be to make a regular, & punctual settlement of all your Issues accounting for all that has been delivered you so as to enable us to charge the United States. I observe one of the charges against you was Fraud which I hope you will be able to clear up in your accounts or the Consequences will be still more prejudicial to you. You will therefore make up an account charging yourself with what you have received from Col. Farmer, & discharging yourself by your Issues at Camp & here as the Case was. You will do well to compare this with Col. Farmer's accounts & then carry the whole to Mess. Miles, Deane, & Purviance, Auditors of accounts who set at Shoemaker Store in Water Street, their settlement will be final, & when produced to us will procure an immediate order for your Pay which will be as liberal as Circumstances will warrant.

I am sir,

your very Hbbl. serv.

JOS. REED.

Phila. July 19, 1780.

* See page 428.

Pres. Reed to His Excellency Thomas Sim. Lee, Governor of Maryland, 1780.

His Excell Thomas Sim Lee, Governour of Maryland, Annapolis.

Sir,

Agreeable to your Request on the 21 ult.* I have the Honour to enclose your excells. the last Embargo Law of this State.

You wil lobserve that it expires on the 1st sept. next, but as the Assembly of this State will meet before that Time, I think there can be no Doubt but that it will be renewed.

I have the Honor to be,
with much Respect & Regard,
Your Excells. most obt. Hbbl. Serv.

JOS. REED.

Indorsed,
July 20, 1780.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1780.

Gentlemen,

Agreeable to my Promise yesterday I send you a Copy of the appropriations of the supplies as made by the Commander in Chief upon which I must request you would make a monthly or weekly Distribution, & to which our Commissioner of Purchases will be directed to conform. By a farther Requisition of the Committee at Camp, we are directed to furnish lb166. 835 of Beef ℔ month, but a greater Quantity having been supplied in the late Exigence of the Army than the whole amount of this in a Year, I apprehend the State ought not be again called upon unless some Deduction is made in the other articles which will be quite agreeable to us, & in order to enable you to make such Deduction; have sent you a Copy of the Requisition from Camp together with the Prices annexed & amount of the whole.

And am with much Respect, & Esteem,
Gent. your obed. & very, Hbble Servt.

The Hon. the Board of War.

* See pages 354, 433.

Francis Swaine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

July 21st, 1780.

Sir,

As I had reason to believe your Excellency was fully acquainted, both with the Charges, & Sentance of the Court martial, I omitted any further relation of in the Letter, I had the Honor to address you with on Wednesday last, but as it appears by your Excellency Letter that that was not the case, I now take the liberty of transmitting a Copy of the Charges & Sentence of the Court.

Concious of my own Integrity, I defy the man that Charges me with Fraud, & am happy to say that the Court did Justice to my Character, in acquiting me of the Infamous Charges to which your Excellency is pleased to refer.

Agreeable to your Excellencys Instruction I shall Immediately lay an account of the Issues of Cloathing delivered to me before the auditors, in order to procure the final settlement of a business which in its Consequences has been so disagreeable to me.

I have the Honor to be with,
the highest respect, your Excellency's
most obedient & very Humble Sevt.

FRANCIS SWAINE.

P. S. Charged with absenting myself from Camp without leave, neglect of Duty, abuse, & fraud, found guilty of the former Charges, and acquited of the latter; sentence to be Dismissed.

FRANCIS SWAINE.

N. B. the abuse was for obliging one officer with a pair of Boots, & thereby Disobliging another.

F. S.*

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr. President Market Street.

Gov. Lee of Maryland to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Annapolis 21st July, 1780.
In Council.

Sir,

In Pursuance of the Request of the General Assembly of Maryland, we have transmitted to you a Copy of the "Act continuing the Act prohibiting the Exportation of Wheat, Flour, Rye, Indian Corn &c., untill the tenth Day of September next."

You will perceive, on Perusal of the Act sent, that so much of the Prohibition as relates to the Exportation of any of the enumer-

* See pages 428, 431.

ated Articles, by Land, is taken off, and that the Suspension of the said Act, or Continuance of it, beyond the Time limited, depends in some Measure, upon the Regulations adopted, or to be adopted by the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware respecting that subject. We solicit your Excellency to send us Copies of your Acts, that relate to this subject, that we may be enabled to form our opinion of the Propriety of extending the Time or removing the Restriction.*

We are Sir,

with the highest Respect and Esteem,

your Excellency's obedient Servants,

THO. S. LEE.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War & Ordnance Office, July 22d, 1780

Sir,

The Board have been pressingly called upon by the Commander in Chief for a larger quantity of powder than the magazines of the United States can possibly supply for the intended operations in concert with the fleet & armies of our allies. We need not impress upon your Excellency the necessity of complying with the General's Request & how disgraceful would be our Situation if the operations in which our Allies were invited by Congress to assist Us were either retarded or totally obstructed by a failure on our part. Yet we are under the greatest Apprehensions for the success of the intended Measures, if we are not enabled by the generous & vigorous exertions of the respective States to afford supplies of many essential Articles among which that of powder is of the highest importance. We have therefore most earnestly to request of your Excellency & the Hon'ble Council that you would lend out of the Stores belonging to your State all the powder you can possibly spare; and we have further to entreat your strenuous endeavours to procure on the Credit of the State, as much as can be had from Individuals & that you will be pleased to take the earliest opportunity of informing Us how much we are to expect from your State. Nothing shall be wanting to provide all we can on account of the United States; but we are convinced that without the Assistance of the States individually, we shall fall very short of the quantity required and perhaps experience the most distressing disappointments from the want of this most essential Article. We will when the Continental magazines are replenished chearfully return in kind the powder you are pleas'd to lend Us or pay the value in money as you shall chuse. We hope the State will on this interesting occasion go to the extent of her Abilities in the Article required & if hereafter as the Continental Stock increases any quantity shall be wanted for State Uses

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 433.

in part of the quantity lent, we can at any time accomodate them when desired & we shall not fail to return the whole the first moment We have it in our power.

We have the Honor to be
with the greatest Respect
your very obed^t Serv^ts.,
RICHARD PETERS.
By Order & in Behalf of the Board.*

Directed,
On public Service.
His Excellency The President & The Hon'ble Council of Pennsylvania, Philad^a.
(War & Ordnance Office.)

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1780.

War Office, July 22, 1780.

Sir,
I have the honor to inform you, that the requisition from Camp, mentioned to be sent in your Excellency's letter of yesterday, was omitted to be inclosed.

I have the honor to be
With high respect
y^r Excellency's mo. obed. Hble Servt,
BEN. STODDERT, Sec^y.

Directed,
His Excellency, President Reed.
War Office.

CONRAD KRYDER TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Allen Township, Northampton County, July the 22^d, 1780.

May it please your Worship,
I Received the orders from the 24th of June last, to make up thirdy Teams in this County of Northampton, to send to our Army, which Teams I Expected to make up in a short time but finding myself very much disappointed by the utmost of my Exertion and taking all Methods in my Power Viz. first I sent to all my Deputies to make up such a Number of Teams according to the Strength of their Districts without fail and to bring in a true account of all those who had not taken the Oath of Alegiance, but they got only three

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 483.

Teams in the whole County by that Method, Secondly I send to all my Deputies again to Warn the Farmers all in their Districts to meet on a certain day and each Township to make up so many Teams required to make up the above Mentioned Number but getting none, Thirdly I send to all those who had not taken the Oath to take their Horses Waggons and gears by force saving two Horses on each Plantation, and got but eight Teams in all by that Method, for on the most Plantations Especially of Disaffected People is only two Horses, and with the said eight Teams I had very much Trouble and Cost, for I was obliged to have their Waggons repaired all their Horses shot and fodder found for all from the beginning and was obliged to inlist Drivers for s^d 8 Teams, and to pay each one Month Wages down and to Promise the Residue as soon as they return and was obliged to furnish the Waggon Master with Money to supply the wants of said Teams on the Road, which I did with my Money, and send the Teams off last week Eleven in Number, likewise the Militia which Assisted by taking said Eight Teams I was obliged to Promise Reasonable Wages and did pay some.

Further I must acquaint the Honorable the Council about the Deputies under me that I can get none in my District to act any more for me in such Business, Their Excuse and Complain is of their service they had done last year, and having not received as yet their Wages and what they had due was too little and will not serve any more without having first Received what they had due, and then to know a certainty what Wages is to be after, so likewise all the Farmers have the same Excuse and Complain. I hope you will take this into Consideration and furnish me with Money so as I may Perform my promise for it is not Possible for me to get any Teams to go without Money.

I am your most Obedient
Humble Servant,
CONRAD KRYDER,
W. M. Gen'l.*

Directed,
To the Honorable the President and Council in the State of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1780.

Gentlemen,

The *Refugees* Enemy are again committing Outrages in the Bay to the great Prejudice of the Navigation, Injury of the United States & especially those of Delaware Pennsylvania & New Jersey. The only Opposition hitherto made has been by & at the sole Expense of this State, & it has been very considerable notwithstanding

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 431.

we were accommodated by your Board with the temporary Use of a Schooner. We have understood that the Navigation of Hudsons & other Rivers which make a Part of the Communication of the Continent have been considered as Objects of general Protection—We must therefore request you to take this Matter into Consideration in the mean Time to give us immediate Assistance we have a Sloop but she is now in Continental Service at Chester which we must recall for this Purpose if we cannot have some relief from the United States—Capt. Boys will wait on you to know your Determination—if the Matter lays with the Adm^y must request you to send this Letter to that Board.

I am Gent.

respectfully Your Obed.

Hble Servt.

Indorsed,

July 22, 1780.

Col. Sam. J. Atlee to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

The high Bounty given by Philad^a has fairly put a stop to the Recruiting Volunteers for my County. I find the greatest difficulty in procuring a man here with a Bounty of £2 or 3000—What I have hitherto got has been for from £1000 to 1200. The Assessments were generally laid for those Sums and the Expences attending the Collections.

I hope however to be able to send my Quota as soon as the Harvests are in, before that time I am confident more cannot be procured—Herewith your Excellency will receive Nine Volunteers all I have at present.

I am your Excellency Most Ob^t

& very Hble Servt,

SAM. J. ATLEE.

July 23^d, 1780.

(Public Service.)

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

N. Lutz to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Reading, 28d July, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellencys favor of the 18th Ins^t duly came to hand, it gives me great Pleasure to hear that Council has so kindly approved of my returns.

You have directed me in regard to supplying the Post at Reading, to Acc^t under the immediate or special directions of Col. Blaine, who wrote to me some time ago that I must furnish said Post with the Necessary supplies of Provisions, as I was appointed Contractor for the County of Berks: But, as I apprehend that I am not to appropriate any of the State Money which I have already rec^d from Councils for the purpose of purchasing Flesh or Liquor for this Post, but to purchase Flour & Forage only for the Use of the Army—therefore I should be glad to know who is to furnish me with Cash; for some method must immediately take place, as this Post suffers this Moment for want of Provisions.

I wrote to Col. Blaine in consequence of his directing me to furnish Provisions, requesting him to furnish me with Cash, but I have rec^d none, & without it, it is impossible for me to procure Flesh.

I am your Excellencys
most obedient humble Servant
NICHOLAS LUTZ,
C^o of P^s B. C^ty.

Directed,

On Public Service,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsyla., Philad^a.

Sam'l J. Atlee to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Pequea, July 24th, 1780.

Sir,

Your obliging Favor of the 19th* came safe to hand this day by Mr. Simon's of Lancaster, in which you are pleased to express yours and Councill's approbation of my Conduct in the providing and forwarding the Volunteers of my County.

It gives me real Pleasure to meet the approbation *of you my Friend*, and that of the Supream Councill of the State, and flatter myself this shall not be the only Instance in which I shall merit it.

Capt Hubley I doubt not wou'd act to the Satisfaction of Councill, and am well pleased to find by your Excellency's that I was not mistaken.

* See page 423.

I shou'd have been able to have gone much further into the forwarding the Volunteers, had it not been for the extravagant Bounties given by your City and some Counties nevertheless I hope shortly to make up my Quota, when I promise myself the pleasure of paying my personal Compliments to to your excellency and Council till when I cannot leave the County.

I have been obliged to break thro' my regular sistem in the late detachment sent off on Sunday last, which consisted only of Nine, I neither thought it proper to keep them here unimployed, nor to be at the expence of charging an Officer with so few. Capt McClelland of the Line has promised to have an Eye frequently upon them, on the march—so that I hope your Excellency will receive them.

I beg my Compliments to Council

& believe me Sir your Excellency's

most Obdt and very humble Servt

SAM'L J. ATLEE.

Directed,

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Council to Sam. Lyon, 1780.

In Council,

Philadelphia, July 24th, 1780.

Sir,

Herewith you will receive sundry blank returns with which we expect you will report to us once a Month what progress you make in the important business intrusted to you, noting any remarks which may occur. We must entreat you to double your exertions in the articles of flour and forage which will soon be much wanted. And flour bearing now a settled price or at least one much more so than formerly we hope you will be able to procure a considerable quantity. The Philadelphia price at present is eighty pounds Continental Money and so in state Money at the rate of sixty for one which you are authorized to give deducting the expence of transportation to Philadelphia market this will serve therefore not only as a rule for the price of the article but of the Transportation. We find ourselves now constrained to deviate from the direction laid down formerly of not impressing; the quantities of articles said to be in the hands of the disaffected are too considerable and their obstinacy and perverseness too notorious to allow us to pursue this line of conduct and more especially as you have money which will answer all the important and necessary purposes. But we desire you to conduct it with as much moderation as is consistent with a firm and faithful discharge of your duty

and avoid unnecessary expenses as much as possible. The Committee of Congress at Camp, the General, the Army and in short every one seems to place great dependance on us we shall therefore be exceedingly blamed if the great operations now in hand should fail by any deficiency of ours. The French fleet and forces are actually arrived to co-operate with us in driving the enemy out of the Country and you must impress every one with the importance of the occasion. The State money has got into very general and easy circulation especially since it became receivable in Taxes besides which we have also some continental which you may have if you are of opinion it will facilitate your business. You may therefore draw upon us for Thirty thousand Pounds which we will punctually answer. The Congress having by their Committee at Camp assigned quotas to the respective states, we have also quota'd the respective Counties, and must call upon your County for 150 Barrells of Flour, 500 Bushels of short forage, 500 Gallons Whisky ⅌ month, 150 Barrels of Flour to be forwarded to Fort Pitt and supplied to the post at Carlisle in due proportions. It might be proper for you to quota the several townships if you do not find it likely that voluntary sellers will supply you fully. In ordering the Transportation we request you will settle the matter fully with Col. David, the Transportation being a Matter of Continental Concern.

The Harvest being now chiefly got in, and the stock of the Country to be computed with some precision we desire you would as soon as possible report to us what well grounded expectations you have of rendering the supply above required. And if, (which we hope will not be the case) you do not find it probable to compleat the whole to inform us what you can furnish with as much certainty as the nature of the thing will admit.

You may remember our first instructions called for monthly Returns, we have yet had but two in the whole, you will attend therefore in future very particularly to the direction first given of sending the Returns once in two weeks as it is of great importance to know what success you meet with.

We depend very much on your care and attention and as the Assembly have given us a power to increase the allowance for your service we shall use it for your benefit according to the services rendered.

The supply of Fort Pitt is become a Matter of very serious Concern & we hope you will fall upon proper Measures for this Purpose as that Post is of great importance to this State & the Country in general. You will let us hear from you in Answer to this as soon as may be & am

Sir Your Obed. Hble Serv.

Indorsed,

1780, August 1st. To Samuel Lyon, Esquire Comr Ps Cumberland County.

Circular to Commissioners of Purchases, 1780.

In Council,
Philad^a, July 24th, 1780.

Sir,

Herewith you will receive sundry Blank Returns with which we expect you will report to us once in 2 Weeks what Progress you make in the important Business intrusted to you, noting any Remarks which may occur. We must entreat you to double your Exertions in the Articles of Flour & Forage which will soon be much wanted. And Flour having now a settled Price or at least one much more so than formerly we hope you will be able to forward a considerable Quantity. The Philad^a Price at present is £80 Continental money & so in State Money at the Rate of 60 for one which you are authorized to give deducting the Expense of Transportation to Philad. or an equal Distance, & so in Proportion to the Distance be it more or less, this will serve therefore not only as a Rule for the Price of the Article but of the Transportation. We find ourselves now constrained to deviate from the Direction laid down formerly of not impressing; the Quantities of Articles said to be in the Hands of the disaffected are too considerable & their Obstinacy & Perverseness too notorious to allow us to pursue this Line of Conduct & more especially as you have Money which will answer all the important and necessary Purposes. But we desire you to conduct it with as much moderation as is consistent with a firm & faithfull Discharge of your Duty & avoid unnecessary Expense as much as possible. The Committee of Congress at Camp, the General, the Army & in short every one seems to place great Dependance on us, we shall therefore be exceedingly blamed if the great Operations now in Hand should fail by any Deficiency of ours. The French Fleet & Forces are actually arrived to co-operate with us in driving the Enemy out of the Country & you must impress every one with the Importance of the Occasion. The State Money has got into very general & easy Circulation especially since it became receivable in Taxes besides which we have also some Continental which you may have if you are of Opinion it will facilitate your Business. You may therefore draw upon us for which we will punctually answer. The Congress having by their Committee at Camp assigned Quotas to the respective States we have also quota'd the respective Counties & must call on your County for

It might be proper for you to quota the several Townships if you do not find it likely that voluntary sellers will supply you fully. In ordering the Transportation we request you will settle the Matter fully with the Waggoners & give them explicit & plain Directions what to do & where to deliver their Loading, their Subsistance &c., as it is very inconvenient to have them calling upon us on these

Occasions and distressing to them. We think it best if possible for you to agree with them by the Barrell and Bushel to be delivered & bear their own Expenses.

The Harvest being now chiefly got in & the Stock of the Country to be computed with some Precision we desire you would as soon as possible report to us what well grounded Expectations you have of rendering the supply above required. And if, (which we hope will not be the Case) you do not find it possible to compleat the whole to inform us what you can furnish, with as much Certainty as the Nature of the Thing will admit.

You may remember our first Instructions called for monthly Returns, we have yet had but two in the whole, you will therefore attend in future very particularly to the Directions first given of sending the Returns once in two Weeks as it is of great Importance to know what Success you meet with.

We depend very much on your Care & Attention & as the Assembly have given us a Power to increase the Allowance for your service we shall use it for your Benefit according to the Services rendered. I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble. Serv.

Indorsed, 1780, July 24th. To the Comrs of Purchases of the several Counties, Circular.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1780.

Gentlemen,

As soon as your Letter of this Morning* was delivered as we sent to Mr. Stiles our Commissary for an account of our Stock. Inclosed you have his Report which is much less than our Expectations. We wish it had been more ample as we should with Pleasure have let you have all that could be spared from the necessary Defence of our Forts on the River. This Quantity is too inconsiderable for the Purposes you have hinted at, & it would be too hazardous to be intirely without ammunition however improbable any attack may appear. There is some Musquit Powder in Store (private property) which we suppose might be procured for the Cash a great part belonging to some Frenchmen in Town but as to Credit, experience has taught us that the Attempt to procure on Credit even from our own Merchants seldom succeeds at this time of day & Money we have not, but if the Board request our Assistence to obtain it in any other Way we shall be as ready on this as on other Occasions to give the Continental officers all the aid of the State.

I am Gentlemen, respectfully,

Your Obed. Hble ser.

Directed.—Council Chambers, July 25, 1780.

* See page 434, and Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 433.

PRES. REED TO COL. AB. SMITH, LIEUT. OF CUMBERLAND, 1780.

Sir,

The French Fleet with a considerable Body of Land Forces being actually arrived at Rhode Island we are now called on by the General & Congress to give them effectual & ample assistance both in Men & Supplies in order to strike a capital Blow & bring this long & tedious war to a favourable Issue. Having promised our generous ally that her Troops will be joined by a sufficient Body of Men here for the most vigorous operations & finding that the Troops belonging to this State in the Continental Army are more reduced than we expected we are obliged to call for the Volunteers raised in your County to join the main army or draw off a greater Proportion of Militia than would be perhaps convenient or agreeable. You will therefore on Receipt hereof immediately put the Volunteers in motion for this City under the Care of suitable officers to prevent Desertion & procure them necessaries on the Road and also call upon three Classes of the Militia to be in Readiness for actual service and to march at a Moments Warning. Two Classes are destined in Conjunction with the Militia from the counties to form a Corps of 4000 Men under the Command of the President of the State to assist in the operations of the main Army. The third Class to go to the Relief of the Frontiers in Lieu of the Volunteers intended. As we hope this Year if properly improved by us will put an end to the War we flatter ourselves the good People of your County being perswaded we can have no object in View but the general Good will readily conform to our Directions both in Respect to the Volunteers & the Militia as we have promised the General our fullest Exertions and Disappointment will be attended with the greatest Disgrace & Injury to the Common Cause as well as this State in particular. On this occasion we hope you & the Sub-Lieutenants will exert yourselves, remove any discontents explain the great Necessity & Policy of co-operating effectually with our Allies as the best Means to relieve themselves from heavy Expenses & Burthens & bring the War to the happy & favourable Issue we have been long contending for.

We depend much on your Zeal & Activity at this important Crisis & after mentioning that all both Volunteers & Militia will do well to equip themselves as completely as possible especially in Blankets which are not to be had here. I remain Sir,

Your Obed & very
Humble Ser.
JOS. REED, Presid.

P. S. As we are sensible that the Apprehensions of the Indians will be a Difficulty with the People in some Parts of your County to come forward we have thought it best to leave it in your Discretion

to relax some part of the within order so far as not to call upon the People over the North Mountain for Volunteers or Militia if it gives too great Uneasiness but in this Case we must depend upon the others coming forward so as to make up 350 Militia & all the Volunteers except those raised in these Parts. But it is certain that the true Mode to relieve the Frontiers is to drive the British out of the Country we shall then have Peace on our Borders as well as the interiour Country & sea Coast.

Indorsed,

July 25, 1780. To Colonel Abraham Smith Lieutenant of Cumberland County.

Pres. Reed to Col. Wm. Scott, Lieutenant of York County, 1780.

To Col. W. Scott, Lieutenant of York:

Sir,

When I last wrote you as Lieut. of the County, out of Affection to the good People of the Frontiers—whose exposed Condition excited our tenderest Concern—we directed the Volunteers raised in your County to proceed immediately to that Country. Since that Time, the French Fleet is arrived with a powerful Succour & sanguine Expectations of putting an End to the War by the most vigorous Exertions; for this End, Congress have engaged to join them with a powerful Body of Troops, & we are called on by the General & Congress to fill up our Continental Battalions, which are very much reduced by Deaths & other Casualties. We are therefore indispensably obliged to countermand those Orders, & direct the Volunteers to march immediately to this City under the Care of discreet & prudent Officers, who will keep them collected, & bring them in good Order, in two or three Parties, as may be most convenient & agreeable. The Quarter Masters & Commissaries on the Road have Orders to supply them with what is needful. Lancaster County has set a very good Example in this Respect, having sent exceeding good Men & in good Order. They will do well to come provided with Cloathing as much as possible, & especially Blankets, there being none to be procured here for Money.—The State has also been called upon for 4000 Militia, to form a Corps to act with the main Army; these will be commanded by the President of the State, who will take the Field as soon as the Men are ready & General Washington orders their March. Your Quota will be 350 Men, exclusive of Officers—for which End you will immediately call upon three Classes; or if they should not furnish that Number of marching Men, you must proceed to a fourth Class. You will have them properly arranged, their Officers fixed, their Equipments as complete as possible, & hold themselves in actual Readiness to march at a Moment's Warning.

By the 15 August, we have no Doubt, they will be required to be at the Rendezvous on the Banks of the Delaware, so that you will see no Time is to be lost. Every Man who brings his own Arms, will be allowed one hard Dollar, or 60 Continental Dollars, for the Use of it. We beg the Number of Officers may not be out of Proportion to the Men, as it is attended with many Inconveniences. We hope on this important & critical Occasion, every one will feel the Necessity & Policy of making a grand Effort to relieve ourselves from a cruel Enemy, which has so long kept us in Distress & Confusion; and as the Militia of your County on some former Occasion did not answer the Expectation of the Government & their Friends, by turning out as they should have done—we flatter ourselves they will seize this Opp^y of retrieving the Honour of the County, & imitating the Militia of Jersey, whose late Conduct has gained them immortal Honour.—We have only to add, that all the other States are exerting themselves to the utmost, & that if we are deficient, we have Enemies enough to our Government, as well as to the general Cause, to proclaim our Weakness & Negligence & triumph in it—Rouse the Sub Lieut^s, urge the Field Officers, & impress every one with a due Sense of their Duty & Interest—every Thing depends on it. We rely much on your Zeal, Care & Punctuality, & request you would keep us informed how Things go with you. You will be supported in all vigorous Measures on such an Occasion.

I am, Sir,

Your Obed. & very Hbbl. Servt.

Indorsed.
July 25, 1780.

Circular to Waggon Masters, 1780.

Boyd Esq. Waggon Master Chester County.

Sir,

In Consequence of a most urgent Demand from his Excelly. Gen. Washington we on the 21 June passed a Resolution for Calling out a number of Teams from this state allotting only to your County The Number seemed so small compared with its Extent & ability, that we hoped it would have been immediately complied with, This Demand has been again repeated to us, & we must in the most urgent manner intreat you to enable us to comply with it. The French Fleet & Forces are now actually arrived, our Nation is under the most solemn Engagement to supply them with a number of articles necessary to effect the great Purpose of relieving us from a cruel Enemy, & a distressing War, among other articles Waggons & Horses stand as foremost & essential, they are in the County & they must be had in some-way or other. We know Difficulties are great & that you have met with too many in the Execution of your

Office, but still the publick Busines must be done by those who are fittest, & that a Change of hands in this Juncture would be ruinous. We have fixed the Proportion of your County as low as possible when we again renew our Call upon you for 50 Waggons (including those you may have furnished already.) We would wish you to procure them or to Hire if you can & for this Purpose authorize you to offer ℔ Day, specie or the Exchange at 60.—If you cannot procure them in this Way the Waggon Law must be executed & Teams, (let them belong to whom they will,) must come out. If it is not possible to procure so many made up Teams in the County which we cannot suppose to be the Case a general Impress of Waggons, Horses, & Gers must take Place conformable to our Resolution of the 21 ult.—Gen. Washington & Congress have also called upon us for a Number of Horses, of which the Quota of your County is 300 By assigning to each Township according to its ability & Extent a limited number which with proper Care & advice we hope may be done, we imagine you may collect this number without losing the Time that would be spent in the usual Course of mere voluntary purchases, when the Horses are procured, we would have two Freeholders appraise them in specie to be paid accordingly or in Continental at the Exchange of 60 for one, on oath or affirmation of two respectable freeholders, & when collected by you they must be branded with the Letters U. S. P. you will then give each Person furnishing a Horse an acknowledgment (for which we send you blank forms) under your Hand & make a Report to us of the Number, & Prices, & Persons of whom bought in order that Measures may be taken to satisfy the owners. If there are any Justices of the Peace in your Township we would have you apply to them, if no Justice to the principal Civil officer, inform them of the Nature & Necessity of the Service & the Number required from the Township, & require his assistance, if no Person offer Horses or if the Number required are not offered you must impress beginning with those persons who have not taken the oath or affirmation of allegiance to the state it being highly reasonable that in Case of Emergence their Property should be first taken for the publick Service but in every Case the Horses to be branded & appraised before you deliver them, If there is any Dept. Quarter Master in the County you will deliver the Horses to him making out a List of the Persons from whom taken, a short Description of Horse & Price given, & taking his Receipt for the Horses as delivered, of which you will send a Copy to us as soon as may be. Your allowance for this Service will be Ten Shillings specie or the Exchange at 60 for one, for every good Draught or Saddle Horse delivered by you agreeable to these Directions besides the Charges of assistants, Pasture, driving, &., of which you will render a particular account & they will be paid on your order, But we beg you to employ none but Persons of good Character as Horses are an article of great & frequent Imposition.

Indorsed,—July 25, 1780.

The like to Lancaster, to Berks, & Northampton.

Pres. Reed to Wagon Master, Cumberland County, 1780.

Waggon master Cumberland County.

Sir,

The arrival of the French Fleet with a powerful Body of Troops to co-operate with us in driving our cruel Enemies out of the Country; the happy Prospect we have of so doing if our Exertions are correspondent, have induced Gen. Washington & the Congress to Call upon us for a number of Waggons & Horses, the same Motives must urge us to comply with this Order to the utmost Extent in our Power as essentially necessary to answer the great Objects in View. Knowing the many Difficulties you have to struggle with, we have set the Quota of your County as moderate as possible which we also hope will be a powerful Inducement to you to exert yourself to answer the Demand quickly & effectually, You will therefore on Receipt hereof furnish us with 25 Waggons four Horses in each well equipped for service, & Three hundred Horses. If you can engage the Waggons on Hire it will be best, & we authorize you to offer them 30*s.* specie ℔ Day or the Exchange in Continental at 60 for one. The Horses you must purchase on the best Terms you can & as the Number will be too considerable for you to collect them in the common mode in a reasonable Time, we do in Consequence of the Proviso vested in us by the Hon. Assembly for this End direct you to quota them on the Townships, calling on each Township according to its Ability by writing to the Justices of the Townships if any, & if not to the next civil Officer for a certain Number for which you will give Certificates to the Individuals who furnish them ascertaining Price by the appraisement on oath of two disinterested Free holders, such Appraisement to be made in Specie, & for Payment of which we will endeavour to supply you with the Means in Specie or Exchange of 60 for one as soon as Circumstance will admit, All Horses when purchased are to be branded as soon as possible on each shoulder, & Buttock with the letters U. S. P. as they come in you will diliver them to the Dep. Qu. Master of the County taking his Receipt for every Horse, mentioning the Price given. If the Waggons cannot be procured by voluntary Hire you must then proceed agreeable to the Waggon Law, ordering them out in the usual Mode as heretofore practised. If the Horses cannot be procured by immediate Purchase or in the Manner we have mentioned above they must be impressed as they must be had at all Events, & you must in that Case call for the aid of the Officers of the Militia, & here a due Regard to those good Men whose Disposition & Judgement led them to join their Country will direct you & those under your Direction in the first Place to take in each Township from those of a different Character & who are distinguished by not having taken the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to the State as most of these

have in a great Degree exempted themselves from the Burthens of the War it is reasonable that in Case of an Exigence & an Inconvenience to be suffered they should beare it in the first Instance. We are sensible that the Duties here imposed will be heavy & in some Respects disagreeable but we hope not impracticable as we have actually made an Essay in this City, & collected a number of Horses. Small contingent Charges necessarily attending these services we shall endeavour to supply you with money to answer them & depending on your Exertion & Industry,

I remain Sir,

Your obed. Hble Ser.

P. S. You will inform us frequently of your Progress.

Indorsed,

July 25 1780.

The like to York, & to Bucks, & Philad. County.

Resolve of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, Philadelphia, July 25, 1780.

Resolved, That the Supreme Executive of the Several States, which are called upon to furnish waggons for the service of the United States, be authorized to make such allowance for the hire of such waggons, as they shall think adequata, untill the Deputy Quarter Masters are appointed for the States respectively.

Extract from the minutes.

CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

Chev. de la Luzerne to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphie le 25 Juillet 1780.

Monsieur,

Quelques Deserteurs hessois sont venus me demander à être employés dans l'Armée Françoise, et ils m'ont assuré que plusieurs de leurs camarades etoient disposés à prendre le même parti ; il me paroit que l'acceptation de leurs offres est un Sûr moyen d'affoiblir l'ennemi et je suis disposé à les faire passer à la Division Françoise ; mais avant de prendre ce parti j'ai crû devoir consulter Votre Excellence et savoir si l'Etat de Pensylvanie n'a aucune envie de les engager parcequę dans ce cas je les renverrai à Vos Officiers recruteurs, ainsi que tous ceux qui pourront se présenter à la Suite.

Je suis avec un respectueux attachement, Monsieur,

De Votre Excellence,

le très humble et très obéissant Serviteur,

LE CHEV. DE LA LUZERNE.

Pres. Reed to Chevalier De la Luzerne, 1780.

Sir,

In Answer to your Excell'ys Favour this Day* I have the Honor to acquaint you that the enlisting any Deserters in the Continental Army being expressly contrary to the Direction of the Commander in Chief; the Hessian Deserters† are quite at Liberty to enter into the Service of his most Christian Majesty if his officers approve it. And that they will, in that Case, receive every Encouragement from us so to do.

I have the Honour to be, with great Respect & Regard,

Your Excell'ys most obed.

& very H'bble Servt.

Indorsed,—July 25, 1780.

Pres. Reed to Col. Jacob Morgan, D. Q. M. G., 1780.

Sir,

We find the furnishing the specifick Articles required by Congress from this State so arduous & difficult a Business that it is impossible for us, compatible with our other Duties to continue our Superintendance in the Manner we have done some Time past, & therefore have come to a Resolution to appoint a suitable, capable Person, with a competent Salary, as Superintendant of Purchases in this State. And upon Consideration of a suitable Character find no Person so acceptable as yourself. I am authorized to request you to engage in it, & take the whole Direction in this State, for which we have concluded to allow £1000 ℔ Ann., in specie or the Exchange. It will be necessary for you to move to this City, or at least to reside here yourself, which we are informed you had in Contemplation before. You will please to give us your Answer as soon as possible, & as the Business is of great Importance to the United States in general & this in particular, we hope you will not decline it. You may depend on being supported in the Office with our utmost Weight & Influence, & that all necessary advances of Money will be made you, to enable you to discharge the Duties of the Office with Ease & Credit so far as our Abilities & Circumstances will admit.

I am, Sir, Your Friend

& Obed., H'bble Servt.,

JOS. REED.

Indorsed,—July 25, 1780.

Col. Jacob Morgan, Reading, Berks County.

* See preceding page.

† See Colon. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 488.

Gen. Anthony Wayne to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Toloway, 26th July, 1780.

Dear Sir,

You have undoubtedly heard of our tour to Bergen, but it is a duty I owe to you, the troops I Commanded & to myself, to make you acquainted with the objects of that expedition, least envy, Malice, or the tongue of slander should attempt to misrepresent that affair.

One was to take all the stock out of Bergen neck to prevent the Enemy from receiving constant supplies from the Inhabitants out of that Quarter, and in case of a siege to secure to our own use those Cattle that they would Inevitably carry into New York, another was the Destruction of a post near Bulls ferry consisting of a Block House, surrounded by a Strong Stockade, and abbatis, Garrisoned by the Refugees & a wretched banditti of Robbers horse thieves &c.

. But the Grand object was to draw the army which Sr. Henry Clinton brought from Charles town into an action in the Defiles of the Mountain in the Vicinity of Fort Lee, where we expected them to Land in order to succour the refugees post, and to endeavour to cut off our retreat to the Liberty pole, & New Bridge, the appearant object to them was great, & the lure had like to take the wished effect three thousand men Consisting of the flour of the British army were Embarked from Phillip's, and stood down the river hovering off the Landing near Fort Lee, where the 6th, & 7th Pennsy. Regiments lay concealed with directions to let them land unmolested (giving me Intelligence of the attempt,) & then to meet them in the Gorge of the Defile and with the point of the bayonet to dispute the pass at every expence of blood, untill the arrival of the first & Second Pennsy. Brigades when we should put them between three such fires as no human fortitude would withstand, and I may now with safety mention that it was also designed to divert their attention from a Meditated attempt upon Rhode Island, by a Combined attack by Land & Water on the French fleet & Army in that place, this has had the effect, by retarding them four days after they had actually Embarked upwards of six thousand men for that very purpose it will therefore be too late to attempt any thing at this period as the french will be prepared against it.

Inclosed is the order of the 20th, & 22nd to which & to the General's letter to Congress I must refer you for the particulars.

I always had the highest Opinion of the troops but my most sanguine wishes—fell far short of the real fortitude, & bravery, which pervades the whole, even, the new recruits—rushes on to storm altho not the object.

I have it in Command from his Excellency to Inform you that

* See below.

the unfforms are all Blue faced with white, he therefore wishes if possible to have as much red or scarlet sent Immediately on as will face our Soldiers Coats, otherwise the officers & men will appear of different Corps the facings of the officers Scarlet, and the Soldiers white, the other states will be in their proper Uniforms, it being that fixed for the Eastern States, and with a little clay may be made to appear as buff, which is the facings of New York & Jersey States, so that our's will be the only officers whose uniforms will differ from their Soldiers, had we the Cloth, & thread, we could in four days alter the facings for the whole line, it is the Generals Intention to Clothe them all new before they meet the troops of France.

Interim believe me with singular Esteem,
your most obt. Humbl. Servt.
ANTY. WAYNE.

His Excellency Jos. Reed Esqr.

Orders of Gen. Wayne, 1780.

After orders, New Bridge, July 21st, 1780.

A Field Officer, with two Captains, or one hundred rank & file properly officered, to take post at this place, which if attacked in the absence of the Division, must be defended to the last extremity.

The 6th regiment will advance to the look out, immediately opposite Spokendevill creek, or King's Bridge—The 7th to Fort Lee, in order to observe the motions of the Enemy on York Island. The officers and men will secrete themselves, so as not to be observed from the opposite side of the river. Lieut. Col. Harmer will leave a Capt. & forty men overlooking the landing place, in order to defend that Defile; whilst he with the remainder advances along the summit of the mountain about one mile lower down, between that & Fort Lee, so as to be in a position to move to either point, in case the enemy attempt a landing; but the Captain's command must continue in the post assigned it at all events—Patrols to pass continually between these posts & up the river. Should the commanding Officer observe the enemy embarking, they are to send immediately notice to General Wayne, towards Bull's Ferry, & to make every possible opposition when the enemy begin to ascend the hill; & as the situation of those regiments will admit acting in conjunction in case of necessity, the General has the fullest confidence that they will maintain the post assigned them, & at the point of the Bayonet meet the enemy at the gorge of the Defile, & dispute that ground at every expence of blood, untill the arrival of the division, when they may be assured of effectual support, & in all human probability, of a glorious victory. General Irwine, with the remainder of his Brigade, will move by Fort Lee on the Summit of the mountain, for Bull's ferry, & endeavour to introduce a sufficient number of men between the block house & the

river, if practicable, so as to prevent the retreat of the garrison; great caution must be observed in this route, least the troops may be drawn into an ambush—tho' if it should be the case, the Bayonet will be their true Resort, which they will use with a confidence of being vigorously supported by the first Brigade's moving parallel with them, attended by Col. Moyland's Horse & the Artillery along the open road. General Irwine will direct a chain of Flankers to observe the advance of the right column, the situation of the ground being favorable for it—if he makes any material discovery, he will be so obliging as to communicate it as soon as possible.

A Detachment from the 1st regt will prevent the retreat of the refugees towards Paulcs hook—whilst this is performing, the artillery will be preparing to demolish the Block houses—every precaution will be used to guard against any serious consequences from up the river; & should the enemy be hardy enough to attempt the relief of this post from Fort Washington, it may add never fading laurels to troops which have always stept the first for glory, & who have every thing to expect from victory—Nothing to dread from Disgrace; for altho' it is not in their power to command success, the General is well assured they will produce a conviction to the world that they deserve it.

—

Division Orders, July 28d, 1780.

It is with infinite pleasure that General Wayne acknowledges to the worthy officers & soldiers under hisc ommand since the 20th inst., that he never saw more true fortitude than that exhibited on the 21st, by the troops immediately at the point of action—such was the enthusiastic bravery of all ranks of officers and men, that the 1st regt, no longer capable of constraint, rushed with impetuosity over the Abattis & up to the Stockades, from which they were with Difficulty withdrawn; the contagion spread to the 2d—but by the united efforts of the field & other officers of each regt, they were at last restrained. The General fortunately would not admit of the further advance of the 10th—& the situation of Genl Irwine's & the other troops, prevented them from experiencing some loss of men; as the same gallant Spirit pervaded the whole, they very probably would have shown the same eager desire for close action. The Block house was only a secondary Object, & to serve as a lure to draw the enemy across the river, & afford us an opportunity of deciding the fate of the day in the defiles through which they might pass before they could possess the strong ground. At 12 o'Clock, the affairs assumed a pleasing aspect—By intelligence from Closter that the British were embarking at Philips & falling down the river towards Fort Lee, where the 6th & 7th regts were posted with orders to secrete themselves, and after the enemy landed to meet them in the gorge of the mountain & dispute the pass with the point of the Bayonet at every expence of blood, untill General Irwine with the 2d & Colonel Humpton with

the first Brigades would arrive to support them. So that there ought to be no difficulty in giving up a small object for one that was capital. Indeed, had the artillery been of sufficient caliber, the brave officers & men who conducted them would have succeeded in the reduction of the block house by a constant fire of more than one hour, within the medium distance of 60 yards, & not be under the disagreeable sensation of leaving a post unreduced behind them, this being too trifling an affair to attend to any longer, when a more ample & glorious prospect was before us; but in this we have been disappointed, as the enemy prudently chose to remain in a less hostile position than that of the Jersey shore.

The General cannot attempt to discriminate between officers, Regts or Corps, who with equal opportunity would have acted with equal Fortitude—& he fondly hopes that the day is not far distant when the prowess of those troops will be acknowledged by the European & American world.

By order of General Wayne.

B. FISHBOURN, A. Camp.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, July 26, 1780.

Sir,

We are called on by his Excellency, General Washington, for a large quantity of shot & shells as indispensably necessary in the proposed siege of New York. To procure them in time, a great number of furnaces must be set to work. We have in this city, materials for casting many tons, & there is an air furnace convenient for this purpose, now standing Idle; but the owner of it, a Mr Nancarrow, being a quaker, refuses to let us use it, if any instruments of war are to be cast at it.* As it will be of great importance to the public, that this furnace be employed on the present occasion, we request your Excellency & the hon'ble Council will give the necessary orders for putting Mr Hodgon, the deputy commissary general of military stores, in possession of it. The board would have chosen to use the furnace with the consent of the owner; but as he stiffly refused to yield it, we hope your Excellency & the hon'ble Council will think with us, that this very important crisis will well warrant the exercise of the authority of Government to obtain it. It may be proper to inform you, that we have yet to procure in addition to the quantities on hand, upwards of fifteen hundred tons of shot & shells —& the casting the latter is a tedious operation.

We have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

In behalf and by order of the board,

TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,—His Excellency, President Reed. (War Office.)

* See page 465.

Circular to Co. Lieutenants, 1780.

Sir,

The French Fleet with a considerble Body of Land Forces being actually arrived at Rhode Island we are now called on by the Gen[l] & Congress to give them effectual & ample Assistance both in Men & Supplies in Order to strike a capital Blow ag[t] the Enemy & bring this long & tedious War to a favorable Issue. Having promised our generous Ally that her Troops would be joined by a sufficient Body of Men here for the most vigorous Operations & finding that the Troops belonging to this State are comparatively weak notwithstanding the Recruits lately thrown in—the Gen[l] has demanded a Body of 4000 Militia from this State to co-operate with the main Army. These Troops will be commanded by the President of the State & are to take the field as soon as the general State of the Army and its Forwardness in its operations requires their Aid.

You will therefore on Receipt hereof immediately call for Three Classes of the Militia of your County provided they amount to 600 Men, exclusive of officers if not you are to proceed to a fourth that being on a fair calculation the Proportion of your County—As we hope this year if properly improved by us will put an End to the War we flattter ourselves the good People of your County being persuaded we can have no Object in View but the publick good will yield a cheerful Obedience to this Resolution—Any Failure or Disappointm[t] will be attended with the greatest Disgrace & Injury to the Common Cause as well as this State in particular—And we depend much on your Exertions as well as those of the Sub Lieutenants & Officers to explain the Necessity & Utility of co-operating effectually with our Allies as the best & most certain Means of relieving ourselves from the present heavy Burthens & Expences, & bringing the War to the happy & favourable Issue we have been long contending for. We hope every one will endeavour to come as well equipt as possible the War having almost drained us of these Articles here & especially Blankets & Arms—Every one bringing his own Arms & Accoutrements will receive one hard dollar or 60 Continental—You will please to put every Thing immediately in Motion as we may daily expect the Generals Orders & I would wish to be in such a Situation as to give immediate Compliance. It has been frequent to send too great a Proportion of Officers on former Occasions which we mention that it may be guarded against on this —We understand some of the Townships in the upper Part of the County hesitate furnishing the Volunteers unless they can direct their March when they think proper we hope this is a Mistake & must request you would see Justice done the other Companies in this Respect for if any Companies or Townships can excuse themselves there is so far an End of Authority & Injustice to those who have complied with the Law—The Regularity & Propriety with

which you have conducted this Business hitherto leaves us no Room to doubt you will correct this Error if well founded, & send them down as the others. Should Major Wirts in the Execution of his Office want any Assistance from the Militia we hope he will have your Weight & Authority in his Favour on Application as much depends on getting a competent Supply from this State.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. & very

Hble Servt.

Indorsed,

July 28, 1780.

Pres. Reed to Lt. Robert Smith, 1780.

In Council,

Philad^a, July 28th, 1780.

Sir,

The French Fleet with a considerable body of land Forces being actually arrived at Rhode Island we are now called on by the General and Congress to give them effectual and ample assistance both in Men and Supplies in order to strike a Capital blow against the Enemy and bring this long and tedious War to a favourable issue. Having promised our generous Ally that his troops would be joined by a sufficient body of Men here for the most vigorous operations, and finding that the Troops belonging to this State are comparatively weak notwithstanding the Recruits lately thrown in—the General has demanded a body of four thousand Militia from this State to co-operate with the main Army. These troops will be commanded by the President of the State and to take the field immediately. You will therefore on receipt hereof immediately call for three Classes of the Militia of your County provided they amount to Two hundred & fifty Men exclusive of Officers if not, you are to proceed to a fourth that being on a fair calculation the proportion of your County. As we hope this year if properly improved by us, will put an end to the War we flatter ourselves the good People of your County being persuaded we can have no object in view but the publick good will yield a cheerful obedience to this Resolution. Any failure or disappointment may be attended with the greatest disgrace and injury to the Common Cause as well as this State in particular. And we depend much on your exertions as well as those of the Sub Lieutenants, and Officers to explain the necessity and utility of co-operating effectually with our allies as the best and most certain means of relieving ourselves from the present heavy burthens and expences and bringing the War to the happy and favourable issue we have been long contending for. We hope every one will endeavour to come as well equipt as possible—the War having almost drained us of those Arti-

cles here, and especially blankets and Arms. Every one bringing his own Arms and Accoutrements will receive one hard dellar or sixty dollars Continental. You will please to put every thing immediately in motion that we may comply with the Generals orders immediately. It has been frequent to send too great a proportion of Officers on former occasions which we mention that it may be guarded against on this.

It has been observed that less Attention has been paid by your County to furnishing the Volunteers than any other in the State. We fear you have not sufficiently attended to the Importance of this Duty as we cannot suppose the County would not exert itself if the Officers would lead the Way. It is unpleasant to suppose that at so critical a Season any Gentleman in Office whose Exertions are important would omit them—but there has certainly been a Deficiency in your County which we flatter ourselves will be made up—The General & Congress impute these Failures to us but we cannot submit to the Imputation when we have given all the necessary Orders.—The Office of a Lieutenant of a County is too important at this Period not to engross the publick Attention & we entreat you once more to call upon the Companies to furnish their Men—you must insist upon it & let me entreat you to consider it as a Business which cannot be neglected—You will also I hope exert yourself in furnishing your Quota of the Militia as above ordered. They must be at Trenton by the 12th Inst. agreeable to Gen. Washingtons Letter which for your information is as follows—

[Here insert that part of the Letter—]

It will be a most disgraceful Thing to the State & mortifying to me to find a Tardiness or Neglect at such a Time.—You may assure the Men that every thing which can be done for their Comfort shall be done. Pray inform me frequently how you proceed.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble Sert.

Directed,

To Robert Smith, Esquire, Lieutenant of the County of Chester.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, July 29, 1780.

Sir,

Mr. Nancarrow* has brought us your letter of yesterday respecting his air furnaces; and on conversation with him we find our commissary will not be opposed in taking posession of them when we are ready to set them to work. The farther interference of your Excellency & the honourable Council will therefore not be necessary.

We beg leave to express our thanks for the ready attention your

* See page 453.

Excellency & the Council were pleased to give to our request on the subject, and are, sir,

with the greatest respect
your most obedient servants
In behalf & by order of y° board,
TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,
To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of Pensylvania.
War Office.

MAJOR HENRY LEE, JUN'R, TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Easton, 30th July, 1780.

Sir,

The original establishment of the army made it equally honorable to hold commissions in the sixteen or independant regiments, as in state-regiments.

Under this establishment military posts have been accepted.

Much has been the deficiency in emolument, & much the deficiency in support to the independant corps. It has hitherto been patiently borne by the sufferers, because of the wants of their country, & the expectancy of releif at some future day.

At length the resolution of Congress appeared, directing the subjects of each state soldiers in the sixteen regiment to be considered as part of the quota of troops from their respective states, & to be treated with perfect equality. Under this resolve of Congress I have heretofore claimed & received in consequence of the claim supplys of necessarys for such officers & soldiers as belong to the State of Pensylvania in my corps. I now beg leave to present my claim to my proportion of levys. It is my opinion, as it is my hope, that your Excellency & council will co-incide with me in sentiment, that you will be pleased to give me an order for the possession of twelve of the new levys, or that you will allow me to withdraw the soldiers now in my corps subjects of your state, & to throw them into the quota of some other people. Be assured sir there is no state, whose service I conceive more honorable than that of Pensylvania, & that the above request proceeds only from an earnestness to make those gentlemen happy whom fortune has placed under my command, by proving to them as they are fully entitled to equal attention from their country with the army in common, so will they receive on application what is given to others.

I cannot but assure myself of succes, when I review the grounds of my request; & know that your Excellency will not injure my feelings, the honor of my officers, & the fidelity of my soldiers so much as by your denial to declare that we have a right only to sup-

plys of convenience & not to supplys creative of military reputation & public service.

I have the honor to be sir,
with the most perfect respect & esteem
your excellency's most ob. h. servt
HENRY LEE, junr.
Ma. com. W. D.

Directed,
Public,
To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, Governor of Pensylvania.

D. Davis to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Reading, 30 July, 1780.

Sir,

I have with great Dificulty sent to Philada fourteen Head of Cattle and 72 Sheep which were delivered to a Continental Butcher for the want of a Properrer Person as no Commissary was in Town, I have Wrote twice to your Excellency Concerning of Cash but have as yet received no Answer which lays me under the Necessity of troubling you with a third on the Same Subject, my Expences Collecting, Driving & Pasture &c., has been very Considerable, a great Part of which I was obliged to Borrow Promising in a few Days to repay.

I must therefore once more beg to be considered with a Remittance to Enable me to pay the Necessary Expences I have already been at, as my Necessity is realy great & a Compliance will ever be Acknowledged—by

Sir your Excellencys
Mos. Obdt humble Servt
D. DAVIS.

Directed,
To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq.

Statement of Pres. Reed to Congress, 1780.

July 30, 1780.

Sir,

The Nature, Extent & Variety of the Information requested by Congress on the 17th & 23d ult.,* necessarily demanded some Time to combine & digest the Materials on which it was to be given, least we should substitute Conjectures for Facts & Wishes for Realities. We have endeavoured to comply with the Requisition in the best Manner Circumstances would admit, but such is the Extent of the

* See pages 332, 352.

State, so numerous & various the Persons to be consulted, that we hope Congress will make a candid Allowance for the many Difficulties arising from these Circumstances, as well as the Nature of our Governments, which do not move with that Celerity & Dispatch which distinguish Governments more simple but less free. We shall not on this Occasion trouble Congress with dry abstract Acts of Assembly, or load their Table with the Copies of these numerous Letters & Orders wrote & given in Co-operation with their Views but give a short & succinct Detail under each Head of Requisition, as particularly stated, reciting each Point of Inquiry in the order requested. And,

First. What Measures have been taken by this State to complete their respective quotas of 80 Battalions agreeable to a Resolve of 9th March?

Answ. On the 21st Feby the Assembly of this State passed a Resolution empowering the Supreme Executive Council to raise four Companies of Volunteers, each consisting of three Officers & 66 Rank & file, to serve during the War at a Bounty of 200 Dollr on Inlistmt, a complete Suit of Cloaths annually during Service, & 200 Acres of Land at the Expiration of the War.

These Troops, tho' to be raised with a View of defending the Frontiers, were on such an Establishment as to be applied to the general Defence if necessary. Accordingly Commissions issued, Money for recruiting was forwarded into the Country, & other necessary steps taken.—On the 26th May, in the succeeding Session of Assembly a Law passed for draughting two Men out of every Company of Militia in this State for the general Defence, to serve till the 15th January next. The Number of Battalions in this State is 76,—& at the Establishment of 8 Companies to a Battalion, it is, or should be productive of 1226 Men.—In the Execution of the first Resolution a general Reluctance appeared to inlist for the War, & very little Success, tho Considerable Expense attended our Attempts. This, we presume, was the Ground on which the Assembly in their subsequent Plan of raising Men, not choosing to hazard the Measure, a second Time adopted that of a temporary Inlistment.—On the 1st June the Establishment of the four Companies was altered & the Bounty reduced. The exact State of these Companies, they being chiefly recruited in the Frontier Counties, we have not been able precisely to ascertain, but have Reason to think the Alteration palatable, & that they are now organized & filled so as to become an efficient Force, but the Devastations of the Savages have been such & the Apprehensions of the Frontiers so great that nothing less than the most indispensable Necessity would justify their Removal. Though we think ourselves authorized to state them as Part of our efficient Force, as their Establishment would warrant their being called on in Case of Emergency. With Respect to the Draughts, as soon as the Law received its last Sanction it was forwarded into the Respective Counties with the most

cogent Orders to be carried into immediate Execution, with Instructions as to Mode, & pointed Cautions ag^t taking Deserters, Prisoners, Boys, Aged or infirm.—The greatest Care has been accordingly taken, & those rejected have been sent back to their Counties to be replaced. In about 3 Weeks they began to come in, & have been from Time to Time forwarded to the Camp; they are the first which had come from any State, & much approved by the Inspectors for their healthy & youthful Appearance. The Number on which we count as recruiting the Line of the State in the main Army by this Measure is 1000—the state of the Frontiers not admitting our drawing the natural Strength of the County from them, tho added to the 8th & the German Regim^t the Residue of the whole Number may be deemed as added to the Line.—Some of these have deserted on their Way to Camp & some since they have got there, but we hope as the Country has found it very expensive to raise them they will be equally active in detecting & apprehending them. As soon as this Plan was so far executed as to prevent any Competition or Discontent in the Militia, we began voluntary Inlistment for the War in the Interior Counties with a Bounty in Specie on a Fund raised by the publick Spirited Inhabitants—in which we have had some success—so that upon the whole we flatter ourselves with making up the Deficiency in our Battalions as stated by the Commander in Chief in February last & by Baron Steuben in May.—We also under this Head beg Leave to add that as the Strength of an Army does not depend on its numbers only but its Appointments, Comforts & Satisfaction with the Service, we have the Honour to inform Congress that in Addition to the Complete & satisfactory Provision made by the State last Fall for cloathing our Officers & Men, we have sent to Camp this Week for the Privates 2000 excellent Shirts & as many Pair of Overalls, which with the Quantity supplied early in the Spring will, we hope, furnish every old Soldier with a comfortable Change of both.—Besides which we supply them weekly with one Pint of Rum, half a Pound of Sugar, ¼^lb Coffee, 1 oz. Tea, ¼^lb Tobacco, & 1^lb Hard Soap, & the Officers in like Manner according to their Rank.—A large Supply of these Articles is now on its Way to Camp. Hence we receive frequent Acknowledgments of our Attention to them, & have Reason to believe that Congress have not more brave & contented Troops, or more Zealous in the publick Cause than those composing the Line of & belonging to the State of Pennsylvania. The^l last Supply of Stores was issued at the Rate of 900 Rations for Officers & 3500 Privates with Gen. Washington.—But it is probable there may be some Indulgencies given in the Issues to supply the Deficiencies of Pay.

The next Heads of Inquiry, to wit.:

1. What Measures have been taken for paying, on a Resolution of 21 May, the Quota of 45 Millions, to be paid by the 1st Jan. last?

2. Circular Letter on the Necessity of paying into the Continental Treasury the Monies called for, &c?

3d What Steps have been taken for collecting & paying the Monthly Taxes called for by a Resolution of the 6th Oct. last?

These Points being all reducible under one General Head of Information, viz.: In what Situation are the Taxes of this State?—We shall beg Leave to give a general View of the whole in that connected View.

On the 10th October, 1779, the Assembly passed the Law for raising the Quota of 45 Millions—which was put into Execution with as much Dispatch as the Nature of the Thing would admit—but in Consequence of the Invasion of the State by the Enemy, the great Changes of Property, the supposed Defects of former Returns, & many other like Causes, it was thought necessary to make out a new Valuation of Property, & that upon oath, a considerable Time necessarily elapsed before the Duplicates could be given to the Collectors.—When delivered it is well known that a very great Proportion of the People of this State from Disatisfaction, real or pretended Scruples of Conscience, & various other Pretences will make no voluntary Payments; of course legal Campulsion must be used, which occasions Delay. The Depreciation of the Money having also reduced the Fines for Non Acceptance of Office or Neglect of Duty to a very Trifle, till lately altered, has been another principal Source of Difficulties.—Many others have necessarily arisen on so great a Revolution too obvious to be now enumerated, but such as Time, Experience, a settled Government, & fixed Currency will, we trust, remove. On the 25 November, 1779, The Assembly passed the Law for raising the Monthly Taxes, grafting that Demand on the preceding, & directing the same Assessment & valuation to serve; by this Means many of the Difficulties before mentioned have been eluded, & this Act has been carried into Execution with considerable Dispatch, three of the Monthly Taxes having been paid in some Counties. But as we presume a tedious detail of particulars is not so much sought as a general View of the Subject, we shall shortly state our Account of Taxes & Payments with the United States, as follows:

The State of Pensylv^a in Acc^t with the United States.

Dr.		Contra. Cr.
To the Amount of Debit stated in the last Acc^t from the Treasury,	Doll^s 12,820,000.	By Am^t of Credit stated in P. Acc., 5,145,800. By Orders of Congress since rec^d & paid, 470,000 Doll^s. By Cash p^d Mr Hopkinson to be sunk, 239,600. Ballance.

Of the Ballance we have actually paid on Acc^t of Congress for Meat procured last Spring in their great Exigence three Millions

of Dollars not carried into the above Account, and as to the Residue Certificates for the Debts of the Quarter Master Commissary Gen[l] in this State now made receivable in Taxes agreeable to a Resolution of Congress of May, & of which a very considerable Proportion is now in the Hands of the Collectors & Treasurer, will far overbal-lance the Quotas of this State as demanded by the Resolutions above recited & now under our Consideration.

Third Head of Inquiry.—What Measures taken by this State to furnish certain specified Articles enumerated in the Resolutions of Decem[r] 11th & Feb[y] 5th?

Answ. On the 23[d] March an Act passed in Conformity to the Resolution directing the Purchase of the following Articles, viz.:

40,000 Barrells of Flour.
200,000 Bushels of Indian Corn or short Forage equivalent.
1700 Tons of Hay.
14,189 Bushels of Salt.
24,423 Gall[s] of Rum.

Commissioners of Purchases were immediately appointed in suitable Parts of the State, & in the same Sessions of Assembly, on the 25 March an Act passed to strike £100,000 in Bills of Credit for the Purpose of procuring these Supplies. These Bills had a Security never given on any former Occasion, visible valuable Landed Property pledged for its redemption in 4 Years with Interest. By various Accidents & delays the Money did not issue from the Press till May.—But in the mean Time divers Purchases of Forage were made on Credit, & the publick Horses preserved from perishing, great Numbers having been sent in from other States to this, as the Farmers would no longer keep them on Credit. The latter End of May the Commissioners in various Parts of the State being supplied with Money began their Purchases, but found a Reluctance to take their Money, particularly in the City of Philad. & County of Lancaster for which two Causes have been assigned. The First is the Shock which Paper Money has received by the general Depreciation, & secondly the unhappy Differences with Respect to the Form & Adminis[n] of Goverm[t] in this State. Publick Credit is of so delicate a Nature as to be easily injured by an Influence & Weight much less considerable than that in question. Some measures were taken to obviate the Danger by engaging a Number of Persons of Commercial Credit & Consequence to take it, & they accordingly agreed so to do, but Disappointment has still followed, as this Engagement has not been punctually & honourably adhered to in all Respects even after it had obtained a free Circulation elsewhere. We lament it as a source not only of much Embarrassment, but as it has contracted & enfeebled our Powers to collect those Supplies so indispensably necessary for the Common Cause. A very large Sale of forfeited Estates & the Division of Monies raised for a special Purpose has in some degree supplied the Deficiency, but we feel the Disappointment very sensibly, & are not without Apprehension that it will be gene-

rally felt in the great publick Scale.—On the 17th April we received from the Commander in Chief his Direction in the Distribution of these Supplies as follows—

See minutes 17th April last.

(Here insert the General's Distribution.*)

To which we endeavoured to conform, & have since supplied the various Posts within the Country with the Articles required as far as Circumstances will permit. It is not possible to state with accurate Precision the Purchases, as many of the Commissioners have never made Returns.—Those of Philad., Lancaster, Bucks, Northampton & Berks on a fair Estimation may be computed at—four thousand barrels of flour, the whole amount of Rum required of this State by Congress, fifteen hundred Tons of hay, and fifty thousand bushels of Corn or Oats.

We could not flatter ourselves that we should have been able to have complyd with their Requisition with Punctuality—but when the Arrangements were made thereon, suitable Instructions given, & the Business in Train, we received from your Committee at Camp a second Plan, differing from the former in Quantity, Quality, Times & Places of Delivery, &c., and so far disproportioned, not only to the Ability of this State, but to the Demands upon some of the other States, that nothing less than the purest Zeal for the common Cause & determined Resolution to strain every Nerve prevented our addressing Congress immediately thereupon. It is shortly comprised in the following Articles:

5000 Barrells of Flour ℔ Month to last of Novr—1000 to be delivered at Easton, 1000 at Coryell's Ferry, & the Remainder at Trenton.

As to Beef it never was an Article of Export from this State, & the Supply furnished this Spring was procured with so much Difficulty & at such an Expence, not less than £25 Specie ℔ Head, that having already furnished the greatest Part of the Requisition to the Army, the Posts within our Supply will require the Residue.

Salt we hope to be able to procure in the Season.

166,835lb Beef or Pork—delivered at Philada.

30,000lb Bacon in 3 equal Deliveries.

225 Hhhds. of Rum ℔ Month delt at the Army.

9,142 Bushels of Grain for Forage ℔ Month; 1500 to be delt at Easton—1500 at Coryell's Ferry—Remainder at Trenton.

250 Waggons with Harness Compleat & four Horses.

1500 Horses without Harness.

150 Waggons for 90 Days—on the Route of Transportation, 8,465 Militia for 3 Months.

As no notice was taken in this plan of the former distribution as made by the General on the twelfth of April, it would have been doubtfull whether the Posts enumerated there, and not mentioned

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 321.

in the second plan, were included in it; but the express direction of deposit at Easton, Coryell's ferry, and Trenton, seem to imply that this was additional to the former, except as to the three places enumerated, and we have been confirmed in this by the application of your Board of War to us to supply these Posts, which we have done and are daily doing.

The whole amount of the demand then upon this State will stand as follows, vizt:—

Five thousand barrels of flour to be delivered for the Army Monthly to the 1st of December, at 67s. 6d. ℔ Bar., Specie,	£84,875		
20,000 at various Posts,	67,500		
1,325 Hogsheads rum,	89,843	15	
191,710 Bush. Short Forage,	55,043	8	9
14,189 bushels salt,	15,962	12	6
1,700 Tons of hay,	9,562	10	
30,000 pounds of bacon at 9^d,	1,125		
250 Waggons, Horses & Harness compleat at £150,	37,500		
150 do. on Hire at 17s. 6 for 90 days,	13,500		
1500 Horses at £30,	45,000		
Militia 90 days,	77,962		
	£501,545	18	9

Exchange at Sixty	£37,598,100
Reduced to Dollars,	100,261,600

Exclusive of Transportation, Collection, &c^a, which may be fairly estimated at Forty ℔ Cent. is—One hundred and twenty-five thousand and eighty-nine pounds, four shilling in Specie—then the Requisitions on this State will stand thus:

The amount brought from the other side is in Specie,	£501,545	18	9
Transportation as above,	125,089	4	
Specie,	£626,635	2	9

Supposing Pennsylvania to be ¼ of the Union, the whole sum will be 802,092,800 Dollars, which is 602,092,800 Doll^rs more than the whole Amount of Continental Money ever issued.*

That nothing might be wanting on our part we quota'd the Requi-

* See page 473.

sition from the Committee on the several Counties in the state in the following proportions, vizt:

Counties.	barrels of Flour, ℔ Month.	bushels of Flour, ℔ Month.	Waggons.	Horses.	Militia.	Salt.	Rum, gallons.
Philad^a City,	300	3000			500	14189	24823
do. County,	200	1000	20	200	550		
Chester,	800	2000	45	200	500		
Bucks,	500	2000	15	200	350		
Lancaster,	1200	5000	50	300	600		
York,	500	500	25	300	300		
Cumberland,	200	500	25	300	350		
Berks,	600	600	20	200	300		
Northampton,	500	1000	15	100			

And here we cannot but make one observation which must strike every unprejudiced mind, vizt, that the smallest County in the above quotas, tho' invaded by the Indians is assessed Monthly sixty barrels of flour more than the whole of a neighbouring state, tho' Flour is the staple of each.

We should do violence to our own judgments if we were to inform Congress that the inhabitants of this state are of ability to answer this requisition; or that they will be satisfied with such an assessment in which they have had no representation, and we take this opportunity, with all due deference to your Honorable Body, to suggest our doubts of the propriety of an unqualified delegation of the right of assessing your constituents to any Committee whatever. We are persuaded it will not agree with the sentiments of the inhabitants of this state, who have been taught to reason on the doctrine of Representation as essential to Taxation, and fully understand it as the constitutional Ground of this Contest.

Having thus informed your Hon. Body of the Arrangements made we now proceed to state the farther Measures taken to secure Success. Wishing to draw from the People the Supplies by voluntary Purchases, & depending on the Acceptance of the State Money we directed our Commissioners to forbear Impressing, Experience having fully shown the Impotency & Difficulty of such a Proceedure. But finding from the Embarrassment stated & the Dissatisfaction of many Parts of the Country that the Progress was not equal to the Demand or our Wishes we issued the Proclamation inclosed, accompanying it with Orders to Officers, civil & military, to contribute their Aid. We have also again directed our Commissioners to make returns of their Proceedings every two weeks to the Council Board & the

Board of War, and ascertain as well as the nature of the Case would admit, how each could answer the monthly demand made. The Wisdom of Congress will readily discern that untill the State of the Harvest could be known any Calculation of this kind must have been extremely vague & uncertain. Providence has in this Respect smiled upon us, as the Crops are good & well got. One of our Commissioners of Flour & Forage informs us that after the present Month he is of Opinion that the Quota of his County may be obtained—the others have not yet made any Report. To sum up this Detail therefore in a few Words & state our Sentiments, we beg Leave to add—That the Hay is already procured—a considerable Quantity of Rum has also been purchased & delivered to the Continental Commissarys.—Bacon is not procurable in this State on any Terms, the Inhabitants of this City having even drawn their Supplies of this Article from the adjoining States.—Salt & Rum will depend on the Importation—here we must observe that the Rum demanded is ¼ of the whole importation of the State.—The Number of Militia required will we trust proceed to Camp as the Inhabitants discover great Alacrity & Zeal on this Call. We fear there will be a Deficiency of Waggons as this State has borne the Burthen in a very great Proportion during the War. Those now with the Army have been chiefly drawn from hence.—The French Commissary has also procured 800 within it besides 700 Horses.—But a few plain Facts will show the exhausted state of Pennsylvania in this Article in a clearer Manner that any Argum^t.—The County of Lancaster, which registered 1700 Waggons in the Year 1777, does not now produce 500, & other Counties in a like Proportion. Horses which at the Beginning of this War sold for £25 now sell from 50 to £60 specie.

We now close this Head of Information with a few Observations.

First, That it does not appear to us to be equitable to consider States as responsible for their Requisitions unless all publick Purchases are in one Hand, either Continental, State or private Associations. We do not mean to reflect upon the Continental Officers; our Experience of the Business has shown that they have had great Difficulties; nor would we discourage the laudable Zeal of Individuals, much less would we unnecessarily control the Agents of our Ally in their Purchases on a publick Account, but the Number of Purchases, the Variety of Money, & the occasional Intermixture of a little Specie occasions Competitions & Jealousies, of which the Seller does not fail to make his advantage at the publick Expence.

Secondly. If the Number of Purchasers & Contractors be destructive of all Arrangement & Equality, the sending Military Officers into the State to impress, undirected by & without a proper Communication with the governing Authority is more so. We are very sensible that on many Emergencies the Exercise of such Powers, however disagreeable to the People, are necessary, as in Case of a sudden Irruption of the Enemy on a March, &c. But wherever Military Authority is exerted so as to supersede the Arrangements

made by the civil we apprehend the Responsibility of the latter ought to cease. In the above Requisition this State has been called on for a great Number of Waggons; we assessed them on the Counties—the Magistrates did the same on the Townships. Major Lee, doubtless acting agreeable to Orders, has impressed, in three Counties only, two-thirds of the Teams demanded from the whole State; two of these are Counties so distinguished for their Attachment to the Cause that we have never found any Difficulty in procuring every Supply required. But the Waggon Masters of these Counties deem this a Supercession of our Orders. We of course must deem ourselves discharged from this Part of the Requisition as it is impracticable to preserve System & pursue Expedient at the same Time independent of & unconnected with each other.

Third Genl Head of Inquiry. What has been done on sundry Resolutions for calling in the Bills in Circulation & emitting new Bills on certain Funds?

Answ. On the first day of June last an Act of Assembly passed adopting the Resolution above referred to—but with a suspending Clause of its Operation untill a Majority of the States should pass Laws of a similar Nature. An official Declaration from his Excellency the President of Congress or the Delegates of the State to the Supreme Executive Council that a Majority of the States had passed Laws to the above Effect, would immediately give Efficacy to the Law of this State.

Fourth Head of Inquiry.

What has been done by the Assembly in Consequence of a Requisition of Congress to vest the Executive of each State with extraordinary Powers to call forth the Military Resources of the State?

Answer. The Assembly of Pennsylvania 1st June last passed a Resolve empowering the Supreme Executive Council to declare Martial Law so far as the same should be conducive to the Advantage of the State. And under this Authority the Supreme Executive Council did on the 9th June last declare Martial Law for the Purposes of Procuring Supplies of Men for the Army as appears by the Proclamation inclosed. And accordingly great numbers of Horses, Waggons, &c., have been impressed into the Continental Service exclusive of those drawn forth by Military Authority independant of the Council.

The last Requisition of Congress was that the executive Magistrate of each State should correspond with the Committee at Camp. In Answer to which we beg Leave to offer a few Observations to prevent any Prejudice or Mistake. And first we do assure Congress it was our Intention to have corresponded with their Committee as desired, & that we were collecting Information from the Country to give them an accurate View of our Prospects of Supply.—That the Members of the Committee having been occasionally in Town after this Resolution, one of them having actually conversed with the President, & both had the Opp^y of knowing from the Delegates of

Volunteers were to act upon the Frontier, but upon a proper representation of the matter to them they chearfully sent them to me, they are not the most deficient. The second Detachment under Lieut Hubley were mostly from Paxton & Hanover, those from the Battalion of Lebanon went the first under Capt Hubley. I have ordered the others in and hope soon to receive them.

I am Sir with my respect to Council
Your Excellencys, most obedient
& very Hble Servt.

SAM. J. ATLEE.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Gen. Washington, 1780.

Dr Sir,

I have received your Favour of the 16th Inst. directing the March of the City Light Horse, for which the necessary orders will be given & they will proceed with all possible Dispatch. Upon the new Plan of our Militia there are Light Horse attached to the Troops of every County. The short time since this Plan has been adopted has not permitted a thorough Execution, but if your Excellr should be of opinion they would be specially useful I will endeavour to have them completed as soon as may be. The Troop of the County of Phila. is already well mounted armed & in Uniform. I do assure your Excellr every Stimulus has been used to forward the Recruits. According to Information they are chiefly selected and only want a proper Equipment, but as I found this was tedious in the Country I directed them to be sent hither & they are now coming in. I am of opinion if your Excellency could spare a few officers say 5 or 6 prudent & discreet, who could bear with the oddities & even Humours of the persons, with whom they will have to do it might forward the Men, & as it is proposed to set about a voluntary additional Inlistment as soon as this is over we are sanguine enough to believe some Men might be had. For this Purpose a few clever Sergeants would be of great Service. The spirit which your Excellr seems so much to wish, I think is received beyond Expectation. The loss of Charlestown like many other seeming Misfortunes may perhaps heavy as it now appears prove a real Blessing to America. A Measure has been set on foot here to establish a Bank which from the Unanimity with which it is espoused seems likely to produce considerable Advantages & Supplies to the Army. It was at first constructed upon so narrow a scale as to meet with Difficulties, but being since enlarged, I hope will prove a more faithful Source of Supply than the occasional Expedients from Time to Time adopted.

Whatever Measure promotes the publick Good shall have my Aid & Concurrence from whatever Quarter it proceeds.

The Ladies of the Place have also caught the happy Contagion & in a few Days Mrs Reed will have the Honor of writing to you on that Subject. It is expected she will have a sum equal to £100,000 to be laid out according to your Excell'ys Direction (in the Absence of Mrs. Washington) in such a Way as may be thought most honourable & gratifying to the brave old soldiers who have borne so great a Share of the Burthen of this War. I thought it best to mention it in this Way to your Excell'y for your Consideration as it may tend to forward the benevolent Scheme of the Donors with Dispatch. I must observe that the Ladies have excepted such Articles of Necessity as Cloathing, &c., which the States are bound to provide.

We have just heard that Mrs Washington is upon the Road to this City so that we shall have the Benefit of her Advice & Assistance here & if necessary refer afterwards to your Excell'y.

I am with the greatest Respect & Regard, dear Sir,

Your most obed & very Hble Serv.

Indorsed,

July 30th, 1780. To His Excellency Gen. Washington.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War office, July 31, 1780.

Sir,

The board have the honor to lay before your Excellency & the honble Council, a letter of the 30th June, from Col. Broadhead, with its inclosures.

Col. Broadhead's apprehensions of being reduced to the necessity of using force to obtain provisions, seem but too Justly founded.

The board know not how to supply him, unless it can be done by your Commissioners in that Quarter & those of Virginia. They are informed by Mr. McAlister, an issuing Com'y of Berkly County, who appears to be well acquainted with that Country, that provisions enough can be had over the Mountains for the Consumption of the Garrison. If so, to procure them there would be a most desirable object, as it would save immense expense of transportation, which in some articles will greatly exceed their cost beyond the Mountains.

The board request a return of the inclosed papers, & your answer on the subject of provisions as soon as may be.

I have the honor to be, With the highest respect,

Yr Excellency's most obed. H'ble Serv.,

By order.

BEN. STODDERT, Sec'y.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President, &c, of Pennsylvania.

War Office.

Demand of Committee of Congress for Supplies, 1780.

30,000 barrels of Flour Monthly; 100 to be d^d at Easton, 1,000 at Coryell's ferry, and remainder at Easton.

lb166,835 beef or pork, to be delivered at Philadelphia.

lb30,000 Bacon, in three equal divisions, to the Month of September.

225 Hogsheads of Rum per month, do. at the Army.

9,142 bushels of grain, for forage, per month; 1500 to be delivered at Easton, 1500 at Coryell's ferry, remainder at Trenton.

250 Waggons, with harness compleat, four horses to each.

1500 Horses, without Harness.

Indorsed,

August 1st, 1780. Demands on this State by the Committee of Co-operation at Camp.

Quotas of the several States for 1780.

New Hampshire, 135,801.	11,200 hund. beef at	6 83,		76,896
	35,643 Gal. rum,	. 1¾,		59,405
Massachusets, 744,904.	56,000 C. beef,	. 6 83,		382,480
	12,126 B. salt,	. 3,		36,378
	195,628 G. rum,	. 1¾,		326,646¾
Rhode Island, 58,834.	2,240 C. beef,	. 6 83,		15,299 2/10
	2,000 B. salt,	. 3,		6,000
	18,621 G. rum,	. 1¾,		31,035
	400 Tons hay,	. 15,		6,000
Connecticut, 660,268.	78,400 C. beef,	. 6 83,		535,472
	1,011 B. Salt,	. 3,		3,033
	68,558 G. Rum,	. 1¾,		114,263½
	500 Tons hay,	. 15,		7,500
New York, 229,117.	11,200 C. Beef,	. 6 83,		76,396
	18,969 Bar^l flour,	. 9,		122,721
	500 Tons hay,	. 15,		7,500
	30,000 B. Corn,	. ¾,		22,500
New Jersey, 299,214.	18,000 C. beef,	. 6 83,		122,940
	10,000 Bar^ls flour,	. 9,		90,000
	3,758 B. salt,	. 3,		11,274
	3,500 Tons hay,	. 15,		52,500
	30,000 B. Corn,	. ¾,		22,500
Pennsylvania, 618,772 dollars, is £232,039 5 0.	40,000 Bar^s flour,	. 9,		360,000
	14,189 B. salt,	. 3,		42,567
	24,423 G. Rum,	. 1¾,		40,706
	1,700 Tons hay,	. 15,		25,500
	200,000 B. Corn,	. ¾,		150,000

Delaware.	3,055	Bar^ls flour,	at 9,	27,495
	500	Tons hay,	. 15,	7,500
	18,662	B. Corn,	. ⅓,	13,996½
Maryland, 558,339.	40,000	C. beef,	. 6 83,	273,200
	20,000	Bar^ls flour,	. 9,	180,000
	200	Tons hay,	. 15,	3,000
	56,152	B. Corn,	. ⅓,	42,139
	1,000	Hd^s tobacco,	60,	60,000
Virginia, 1,047,288.	47,000	C. beef,	. 6 83,	321,010
	1,278	Bar^ls flour,	. 9,	11,502
	10,700	B. salt,	. 3,	32,100
	400	Tons hay,	. 15,	6,000
	200,000	B. Corn,	. ⅓,	150,000
	100,000	G. Rum,	. 1⅓,	166,666⅔
	6,000	Hd^s tobacco,	60,	360,000
N. Carolina, 561,146.	49,875	C. beef,	. 6 83,	340,646¼
	15,000	B^ls flour,	. 9,	135,000
	4,500	B. salt,	. 3,	13,500
	800	Tons hay,	. 15,	12,000
	80,000	B. Corn,	. ⅓,	60,000
S. Carolina, 552,280.	16,000	C. beef,	. 6 83,	109,280
	52,000	C. Rice,	. 3,	156,000
	5,000	B. salt,	. 3,	15,000
	120,000	G. Rum,	. 1⅓,	200,000
	800	Tons hay,	. 15,	12,000
	80,000	B. Corn,	. ⅓,	60,000

Total amount 5,704,454 Sp. dollars called for Pennsylvania.

40,000 barrels flour,	at 9 dollars,	- - -	360,000
14,189 Bushels salt,	3 "	- - - -	42,567
24,423 Gallons Rum,	1⅔ "	- - - -	40,705
1700 Tons hay,	15 "	- - - -	25,500
200,000 Bushels Corn,	⅓ "	- - - -	150,000
			618,772
10,000 bar^ls flour in addition at 9 dollars,		- -	90,000
			708,772

Total of supplys called for amount in spanish dollars to 5,704,454 spanish dollars, one-eighth* of which is 711,807.

300,000 Inhabitants in Pennsylvania.
8

2,400,000

Indorsed,—1780, August 1st. Quotas of the several states for the year 1780.

* See p. 467.

Gen. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Peeks Kill, August 1st, 1780.

Sir,

I beg leave to inform your Excellency that the exigency of the service makes it necessary for me to call the German Battalion from Sunbury to join this army, & that I must embrace the earliest opportunity to transmit an order for the purpose. I have thought it proper to communicate this to Your Excellency, that you may if you deem it essential, supply its place by incorporating, & ordering a number of your militia to act in that quarter. Had the requisition of the Honorable the committee of Congress to the state for men to fill her battallions, been even nearly complied with, and which I thought as they did the Public interest required, I should have foregone the advantages which would have been derived from the service of this Corps and continued it at its present station; but this not having been the case, I am compelled to avail myself of its aid.

I have the honor to be,
With the greatest respect,
your Excellency's
most obet. hum. servant,
G° WASHINGTON.

His Excellency Govr. Reed.

Pres. Reed to Col. Nich. Lutz, 1780.

Col. Nich. Lutz, Comm. of Purchases.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 31 ult is now before me, & has been communicated to the Council. We have yet had no arrangement from the Board of War but it is our Direction that you proceed in the Purchase of Flesh with state money as in the Case of other Purchases till a farther arrangement takes Place.

As there is no Person yet at Easton to take Charge of the Flour you will keep it untill some Directions are given at that Place, & I beg you would use your utmost Industry to procure a supply agreeable to the Directions you will receive herewith. Major Lee with a Party of Horses is at Easton, if you find Difficulties in executing your office from the perverseness or obstinacy of Tories you must apply to him for assistance. It is no Time for Ceremony or Delay. You may purchase Rye at the Price you mention but it is not so safe a Grain as Corn or Oats, you will therefore act cautionly.

I am Sir, your very Hbble. Serv.
JOS. REED.

Indorsed,—August 1st 1780.

Gen. Greene to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Verplank's point, 1st August, 1780.

Sir,

I have your Excellency's favour of the 19th ulto.* which I would have given an answer to before this, but as we have been on the march, and I seperated from my papers, a great part of the time, it has been out of my power.

I understood by the requisitions of the Committee of Congress, that they were sufficiently expressive of the end and uses of the things required, being for the support and organization of the army, as the Quarter master's and Commissary department were unfurnished with money, and consequently unable to make the necessary provisions. I wish whatever the state have provided for the use of the Quarter masters department, and whatever they may hereafter provide upon the requisitions that have been made, may be forwarded to the army without loss of time.

I cannot pretend to enter into a calculation of the ability of the state of Pennsylvania, but I will venture to assure your Excellency, that if what has been required of her is greater than her abilities, it has arose from our having too high an idea of her resources, and not with a view of drawing down upon her the least imputation of blame, or involving her in any unnecessary distress. Colo. Cox, Colo. Stewart, and others were consulted in framing the Estimates, and were clear in opinion, that the resources of Pennsylvania were full equal to the demand that was made. Whatever blame may arise from an improper apportionment upon the states, the Committee of Congress are not chargable therewith in the least degree, unless their not having made any alterations in the Estimates laid before them is a matter of blame, nor can I persuade myself that there was an Idea of interested political or party views in the whole of the business, neither can I suppose any thing was done with an intention of discrediting the Councils and Government of Pennsylvania; and so far as I have had any concerns in the measure, I declare upon my honor I have seen no disposition of the kind, and I flatter myself there is nothing in my conduct, since I have been in public life, can induce a belief, that I would wish to do an injury, either to the state, or to the men in power at the head of it. There were two principles upon which the Estimates were grounded, one was the ability of the State, the other, the practicability of drawing the articles wanted in time; and these two have been the governing principles that have guided the conduct of those who have had the business under consideration.

It is impossible to carry on a war without oppressing the Inhabitants in some degree; and however disagreeable and inconvenient it may be to the people, and to those in power, a regard to the com-

* See page 426.

mon good and general safety will justify the measure; and th'o the people may be a little restless & impatient in the present hour, they will have reason at a future day, to bless those who had resolution enough to consult and persue their true interest.

From the measures which have been lately taken in Congress and the letters that have passed between me and them upon the occasion, I do not consider myself as acting officially in this matter, but I would beg leave to recommend to your Excellency to have the Horses delivered to such of the Deputies as have public waggons that have been ordered to Camp, and that they be loaded, either with stores or forage according as the circumstances may be. The Deputies have been fully instructed with respect to the articles that are to be forwarded, and will take their measures accordingly. Your Excellency is too well acquainted with the Circumstances of the Forage Department to need any explanation upon that head.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect your Excellencys,
most obedient Humbl. servant,
NATH GREENE, M. Gen.

His Excellency Governor Reed.

Pres. Reed to Lieutenants of Counties, 1780.

In Council, Philad^a, August 1st, 1780.

Sir,

After having informed you on the ult., that it would be necessary to arrange the Militia under your direction so that Classes might be in readiness to march immediately. I cannot doubt but that with your usual zeal and attention you have proceeded so far. It is now my duty to inform you that the time is come when their assistance is required to co-operate with the main Army. Last evening I received a letter from His Excellency General Washington to the following import.

"I have no scruple of announcing to you that New York is the "object of my preparations and if the respective states comply with "the requisitions made on them there is a well grounded hope of "putting a speedy and happy termination to the War. I have there-"fore to request the favour of you to order the Militia of your State "as before required to join the army under my immediate command "as soon as possible." The glorious prospects held forth by our excellent Commander in chief, with the powerful succour sent us both by sea and land by our generous Allies, the vigour and spirit of our brave Continental Army cannot fail to animate the officers under your direction and the people generally and chearfully to turn out on this occasion and co-operate with the main Army.

Tho' I feel my inequality to the Task, yet I cannot on this important occasion but avail myself of the opportunity my station gives

me to lead my friends and fellow Citizens to the field partake of their Toils and dangers and share with them the honour which I have no doubt they will acquire.* Their lives health and comfort will be objects of my particular care and as far as circumstances will admit every thing necessary for the purpose will be provided.

In the mean time I would recommend to every one to come as well equipp'd as possible especially in the articles of blankets shoes knapsacks and canteens, nor depend on publick stores which by the long course of the War are now much exhausted.

As soon as equipp'd they are to March to this Place with all Expedition.

The Regimental staff I would wish to have formed as soon as possible that the Men may know to whom to look for their necessaries. Every one who brings his own arms will be entitled to receive a spanish dollar or sixty Continental dollars for the use of it during his Tour of duty. You will also remember to send your own surgeon & Mate. You are by Law impowered to draw forth Waggons to transport the necessary Baggage of the Troops.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble ser.

Directed,

To Esquire Lt of the County of,

Pres. Reed to Major Lee, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I received your Favour this Day but cannot help believing it was intended for some other governing Officer of a State, as I do not recollect any Instance wherein the Officers of the Army or of your Corps have been neglected so as to occasion the Discontents you mention. If there is any Thing in our Power to add to their Comfort or Satisfaction in the Service it will give us great Pleasure to carry it into Execution as both you & they may be assured that we have a due Estimation of their Merit & Services & that we are happy in every Opportunity to give them the most substantial Proofs of it. You mention that you have come into this State to impress Teams but it has been probably owing to the Hurry of Business that you have not been more explicit as I presume you intended to have done it under the authority of the State. I have therefore inclosed Letters to the Commissioner of Purchases & to the Waggon Master of the State to apply to you for Assistance in executing any Orders of this Nature which you may have brought from the Commander in Chief as I know of no other Authority out of the State which could on any proper Foundation exercise such a Power over the Inhabitants of the State.

I am extremely happy to hear you have come into this State at

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 452.

this Time as I am persuaded the publick Service will require something more than legal Coercion & I know of no Officer or Corps in whose Prudence & Discretion more Dependance could be placed. I shall be glad to hear from you frequently & if not inconsistent to know the Nature & Extent of your Orders.

And am Dear Sir,

Your Sincere Friend & Obed,

Hble Serv.

JOS. REED.

Directed,

Major Lee.

Indorsed,

August 1, 1780. To Major Lee of Light Horse.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1780.

War Office, August 2, 1780.

Sir,

As the messenger from the fort pitt department is waiting, the board request they may be favoured with the opinion and determination of your Excellency and the honourable Council relative to the subject of their letter of the 31st ult.* and Col. Brodhead inclosed therein; whose information and that of others present no other alternative, than using military force in procuring provisions for that garrison and its dependencies, or abandoning all the posts on those frontiers; unless a competent supply of provisions can be furnished by the commissioners of this state and those of Virginia.

We have the honour to be Sir,

Your Excellency's Most obedient Servants.

In behalf & by order of y^r board.

TIM. PICKERING.

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

War Office.

PRES. REED TO BOARD OF WAR, 1780.

In Council,

Philad^a August 2nd 1780.

Gentlemen:

The Papers from Fort Pitt were laid before the Council yesterday, at a Time when we had just received Gen. Washington's Directions to call out a large body of Militia—it has been impracticable

* See page 471.

to consider them with the Attention necessary to give any Answer in so short a Period. We have had no Report from our Commissioner in that Quarter since his Appointment, except that the Debts of the Qr Mr & Commissary's Departments in that Country were so grievous, & had discontented the People so much, that he found great Difficulty in making Purchases. We have done every Thing in our Power & seasonably; if any Deficiency has happened, we fear it must be imputed to the System, the Impracticability of which appears every Day more conspicuous. The Commissioner at Reading has wrote very anxiously for the Arrangement of that Post; we must entreat that some Regulation may be made for the Issues at the various Posts enumerated by the Commander in Chief—as the Demands are now made & supplied without Rule or Measure, except at Lancaster, where the Supplies furnished by our Commisy amounted in May, to 6608 Rations—in June, 5625.

As soon as it is possible to consider & form an Answer upon the Papers from Fort Pitt, we shall return one—In the mean Time, we can have no Objection to the using any necessary Compulsion, rather than the Troops should suffer. We feel & lament the numerous Difficulties which present themselves on this Mode of supplying an Army, and as far as is in our power, shall endeavor to obviate them —but we hope it will always be considered, that when we undertook our present Offices, the Duties of Quarter Master & Commissary were not included in them; & that from the Novelty, Intricacy & Extent of the Business, together with our other Duties, great Allowance must be made.

I am, Gent.,

Your Obed. Hbbl. Serv.

The Board of War.

Ephraim Blaine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Toppan, August 3, 1780.

Honoured Sir,

The Consumption of Provisions have Increased this Eight days past, and without the States use four-fold Exertions, the Army cannot long Subsist; there is now but Ten days' flour within the Neighbourhood of Camp, King's ferry & Morris Town, Six days' supply of Beef, and little or no Rum; and what distresses me beyond measure, I have this moment been Informed that the Magazine at Trenton is quite Exhausted, and all the flour & Rum there would not Load One Brigade of Waggons.

Supplying the French Army at Rhode Island, has held back part of the Supplies of Beef I had reason to Expect from the Eastern States; this gives me reason to doubt I shall fall far short of a Sufficiency of that Article, without great Assistance from the Southward—much Dependance is put on your State for flour; therefore, pray your

Excellency & Council to give us Immediate relief and every possible Assistance, else the Army must undoubtedly disband for want of Subsistance. Marquis La Fayatte is just returned from Rhode Island, and brings little News, Except the French Army are in great spirits, and with the Militia was well prepared to have received Sir Henry Clinton & his Army, had he proceeded as was Expected. I Believe the army will remain here several days. I have the Honor to be, very respectfully, your Excellencies Most obedt Hble. Servt,

EPH. BLAINE, C. G. P.

Directed,

Public Service.

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Ephraim Blaine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

King's Ferry, 3d August, 1780.

Sir,

The Committee of Congress at Head Quarters having Called upon the States to furnish Supplies for Our Army, (during the Campaign) which is Increasing fast, and makes the daily Consumption of Provisions very considerable, and will require every possible Exertion of the States to keep them Supplied.—

Your State is requested to furnish five thousand barrels of flour, Two hundred & Twenty five hogsheads of Rum, & 166,835 pounds of Beef ℔ Month—there is fourteen Brigades assembled in this Neighbourhood, and Recruits hourly coming in, which, with the followers of the Army, now Consume One hundred barrels of flour and Sixty five head of Cattle daily. The requisitions made by the Committees of Congress upon the respective States for Provisions, are Calculated to supply Our Army, which is very shortly Expected in the field; and without a speedy Complyance, they cannot long subsist;—have in the most pressing terms to beg your Excellency and Council to press the State Contractors to use every possible means to facilitate their respective Purchases, and forward the flour & Rum agreeable to the Orders of the Committee. The Beef Cattle will be received by Capt Little at Philadelphia, whom I have appointed to Superintend that Business, and forward them by Droves to Head Quarters. I shall be happy in Adopting any measure which will make the delivery of Supplies Easey for your State.

Our sudden March from Prackness in Jersey, to this place, made me Conclude that a very few days would bring us into New York; but Sir Henry Clinton's speedy return from his Intended Expedition to Rhode Island, has prevented his Excellency General Washington from proceeding further. We are now recrossing North River, and going to take post near Dobb's ferry, which is about Eighteen Miles

below this place; and I presume we shall remain there until the Arrival of the Second Division of the French Fleet.

I have the Honor to be, with great Esteem,

Your Excellencies most obed^t hble. Servt,

EPH. BLAINE, C. G. Purch^s.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

PRES. REED TO GEORGE GILLESPIE, 1780.

Aug. 3d, 1780.

Sir,

Mr. Matlack being in Congress has laid your Letter before us, But we are clearly of Opinion that the Resolution of Congress being passed before regular Government were established & tending to control the internal Police of those States cannot under such a Change of Circumstances avail you as an Excuse for Non Payment of your Militia Taxes—The Laws of the State must be the Rule of Conduct for those who live under its Power & Protection to which you will do well to pay a cheerful Obedience—As to any Acts of Oppression complained of the Laws are open to any one who esteems himself injured—to them we recommend you to apply for Redress, It being impossible for the Supreme Executive Council to administer Justice to every Individual who is or thinks himself injured by any of the Officers—If the Laws are deemed grievous you have a Right to leave the State in which we shall give you our Concurrence so far as is necessary—we doubt not the Liberty & Independence of the Country being so near established all those who have continued here waiting Changes favourable to the British Governm^t, & their own Wishes & in the mean-time reluctantly obeying the Laws of the State & embarassing the publick Measures as far as was consistent with their own personal Safety & who shall now withdraw from the County will soon be replaced by Persons of a different Disposition & Character.

I am sir,

your Obd. Hbbl. Servt,

Indorsed,

To Mr. George Gillespie Bucks County.

Pres. Reed to Gen'l Washington, 1780.

Philad., Aug. 3, 1780.

Sir,

I am to acknowledge your Excell^y's Favour of the 27th ult., calling for the Militia of this State to join the main Army as soon as possible—with which we shall most chearfully & readily comply.

On the 12 June, the Militia of the City & four lower Counties had orders to hold themselves in readiness to march at a Moment's Warning—On the arrival of the French Fleet, Orders were immediately dispatched over the Susquehanna the Execution of which I hope by this Time is considerably forwarded. I have appointed the 12th of this Month for them to rendezvous at Trenton except such as take the upper Route. I flatter myself there will be as much punctuality as can reasonably be expected from the Regularity of undisciplined Troops. Should any Thing interesting occur I shall not fail to give your Excell^y Notice.—

I must also beg leave to mention that our purchasing Commissaries represented to us that in many Places where we are directed to deposit Flour & Forage, agreeable to your Excell^ys Arrangement there are no Persons to receive it—and that there is a similar Complaint of the Teams ordered out no Person being appointed or at least chusing to receive & issue the Forage necessary for their Passage. The system necessarily implies a Receiver different from the Purchaser the latter delivering on Acc^t of the State & the other receiving in Behalf of the Continent—& also that the Flour is to be receivable by the Commissary—& Forage by the Q^r Master At Easton where we have been directed to deposit a considerable Quantity of Flour & Forage there is no Person to receive or Stores to lodge it, the same upon the Susquehanna. A Letter has also been communicated to us from Mr. Furman at Trenton, representing that the Teams sent him from this State are unnecessary & indeed embarassing as he was then actually discharging voluntary Teams for want of Hay & Pasture & Pay, & expressly declaring that if supplied with these Articles he can do the Transportation with the Teams of the State in which he lives.

The sending these Teams out of the State together with those precur'd for the French Troops will be very heavily felt in the next Year's Crops, we submit chearfully to this if indispensably necessary, but your Excell^ys Discernment will easily point out the difficulties & Discontents that will ensue if the Facts are as stated by those Gentlemen on whose Veracity we believe the greatest Dependance can be placed. We are informed that a farther Demand of Teams to the Amount of 1066 is to be made on this State, we should be wanting in Duty to the publick as well as Justice to your Excell^y not to take the first Opp^y to inform you that we do not think it practicable to comply with it, the Letters we receive from the Waggon Masters

assure us of the greatest Difficulties in performing former orders—the Number of Teams in the State is greatly reduced, Lancaster County which formerly registered 1700 now does not register 500 & many of those are ordinary, some of the other Counties have declined in a greater Proportion. We must intreat your Excell^y to believe that it is with real Reluctance we decline any Requisition because we are perswaded you would not make any which you did not deem necessary, but we dare not mislead in Points of so great Consequence or give Expectations where we have no solid Ground to go upon. The present Resources & Ability of this State are greatly exaggerated whether thro Ignorance or Design is not so material. The Prices given in Specie are the most undeniable Proofs of it. The Horses purchased by the French Commissary tho not of the first Quality, have on an Average cost £60 each. His Waggons are engaged on a like Scale. The Justice of our Remarks must appear more clearly when your Excellency recollects that the Army has been chiefly supplied with Horses & Waggons from this State during the War, that the most of them now attached to the Army are drawn from this State. The Q^r Master yesterday declared that half of all the supplies furnished the Army (imported Articles excepted) had been drawn from this State for three Years past. These Circumstances cannot fail of making a due impression on your Excell^y & convincing you that our Representations on this Subject are not the Result of Indisposition to comply with reasonable Requests but proceeding from a Knowledge of the real State of the Country & certainly deserve more Consideration than those of Persons who if free from the Suspicion of Partiality or sinister Views must be admitted to be ignorant of the Circumstances of the State. It is to us incomprehensible that any should be found who would undertake to estimate the Ability of a State whose Knowledge extends no farther than the Bounds of the City. But we depend on your Excell^ys Candour Discernment & Impartiality, & hope you will do us the justice to believe that as nothing has been omitted so we shall continue our exertions in the publick Service with unremitted Attention.

I have the Honour to be
with great respect and Regard,
your Excell^y most Obed. Hbbl Servt

Col. Samuel J. Atlee to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lancaster, Augt. 4th, 1780.

Sir,

I have issued the orders for the immediate holding in readiness the three first Classes of the militia of this County. The people complain loudly that the Counties of Chester, York, and Cumberland have not done equal duties with the County of Lancaster, and appeal to the Law, which provided that no County shall be called to service untill the other Counties in the State have performed their equal Tours. I shall nevertheless proceed with the utmost Vigor, and endeavour to fulfill the wish of Councill. I have this minute recd. a line from the Hon̄ble. the Vice president with a packett of 40 Resolutions for the Recruiting service which I have distributed to the different Battalions. Give me leave to observe, Sir, that few men will credit us untill their arrival at Philada. your Excellency must know well the disposition of Recruits, that nothing satisfies short of the monies promised upon their entering.

I have not the least doubt that upon proper encouragement, and a sum of hard money placed in my hands, I could procure a great many good men in this County, much fitter for the service than the idle lurking fellows to be found about the Wharves of Philad. I always found the Philad. Recruits the worst sent into the army, I look upon one sprightly young fellow from the Country worth two to be found in Cities.

The reward of two Hundred dollars upon the Delivering of the Recruit at the Barracks will not procure any from the Country, no provision being made for the subsistance untill such delivery nor for the Expence of traveling—in both which articles two Hundred dollars will go but very little way.

I am Sir, with he highest Respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

and very Hble Servt.

SAM. J. ATLEE.

On publick service.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire President of the state of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Brig. Gen. James Potter, 1780.

Dear Sir,

The General has called for 4000 militia to co-operate with the Main army in an attack on the City of New York, in Conjunction with our allies who have arrived at Rhode Island, forming a most

respectable Force both by sea & Land, Your Experience, Judgement & activity will be of great service to the Country, on this Occasion, & peculiarly so to me. If therefore it is possible for you to come I shall be glad to see you as soon as you can consistent with the service which I must request you to undertake on the Way. We have called for the Militia from Cumberland, & York, which we hope you will forward as soon as may be or rather we hope you will bring them down with you, we shall endeavour to get every Thing in Readiness here, I expect to leave this Place 12th, Inst. & shall be impatient to see you as soon as is consistent with the Nature, & Utility of the service.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1780.

Gentlemen,

Having as soon as in our Power considered the Papers sent us from Fort Pitt,* we now return them agreeable to your Request with such Information on this subject as will comply with your Request, & if any Thing is omitted will chearfully supply it.

Soon after the Resolve of Congress calling on the state for specifick supplies, the Assembly passed an Act empowering us to appoint Commissioners in the several Counties to carry it into Execution. On the 3d april, among others we appointed Samuel Lyon, for the County of Cumberland, & John Allen for the County of Westmoreland having Fort Pitt in Contemplation as an Object of their Attention—Soon after we received from the Gen. an arrangement of these supplies a Copy whereof we lately sent you, we immediately forwarded Directions thereupon to those Gentlemen, with orders to make a monthly Return of their Proceedings, & sent at the same Time a sum of Money. We have not heard from either of the Gentlemen since, but suppose the Continental Officers who had the Care of forwarding, & issuing the supplies, had drawn from them what was necessary. But we have now wrote to them impressing the Necessity of exerting themselves for the Relief of the Post, & directing a monthly supply on the following Scale Cumberland to supply 150 Barrels of Flour 500 Bushels of short Forage & 500 Gallons of Whiskey,—Westmoreland 50 Barrels of Flour & 500 Bushels of Indian Corn, 100 Gall. of Whiskey that being as near the General's Arrangement as we can make it. The Difficulty of Transportation was represented last Spring to the General, & a Calculation of Expence by which it appeared that the Carriage would far exceed the original Price of the articles, & we thought it necessary that some Continental arrangement should be formed on that Head as the system could not justly or fairly be extended so as to throw that Burthen on the State. We received an answer signifying his sense of the Difficulty, but also containing an Intimation that he did not

* See page 471.

see the Remedy. We still think it highly important as it is easy to see from the Nature of that Transportation that it cannot be effected by the state and be reasonably included in the system of specifick supplies. The Impracticability of this system we think will soon be obvious with Respect to the Posts, & situations within our Reach, but as to them at so great a Distance it must be absolutely so & will we fear unless altered be attended with ruinous Consequences. However we shall do every thing in our Power to supply as far as we can. We have sent a Letter to Mr. Lyon by an Express going off this afternoon, we enclose one to Mr. Allen with some blank Returns directing him in the same Manner to exert himself and throw in the aid of the County.

I am Gent.

Your obed. Hble. Serv.

Indorsed,
Aug. 4th, 1780.

Pres. Reed to Genl. Geo. Washington, 1780.

Sir,

Your Favour of the Ult., signifying your Intentions to call the German Regiment from the Frontiers of this State, has been duly received. As your Excell^y is the best Judge, & has an undoubted Right to direct the Operations of every Branch of the American Army to that Point where you shall deem them most useful, it is our Duty to acquiesce in this Measure; & tho' it probably may at first be distressing to the inhabitants, we shall endeavor to reconcile them to it as a necessary & proper, though an unexpected Event. We esteem it as a very great Misfortune, that our earnest & unremitted Endeavours to fill up the Line of this State, & answer your Excell^ys Expectations, have not been more deserving your Approbation—we are still industriously persevering to call in, from the distant Counties & elsewhere Men for this Purpose. The most remote Parts will, in a little Time, we trust, send forth Men to the Army—they are directed, enjoined & encouraged so to do; & in all Events, however our well meant Designs & real Exertions may not be sufficiently known, or properly understood, we are conscious of having done every Thing in our Power to promote the Interests of our Country, & if a due Estimate was made of the Men furnished by this State, from the Beginning of the War to this Time, we flatter ourselves that few States in the Union would appear more meritorious. In Attention to our Officers & Men to make them easy, comfortable, & of respectable Appearance; in supplying the great Departments of the Army, & in filling the Loan Offices, no State can pretend a Competition with this. We do not make these Comparisons as blaming others; they have doubtless done to the utmost of their Abilities; but we think it our Duty to guard against the Suggestions of Error, which seem likely to lead to

Consequences very injurious to the common Cause. Our Union hitherto has been our Strength; & should we form any unfortunate Constructions of each other's Conduct, fall into unkind or uncharitable Conclusions, it may tend to discourage the willing & active, depress the timid—& give Hope to our Enemies. Could we lay a true & complete State of the Exertions of Pennsyla. before your Excellᵧ, we should have nothing to apprehend—but we are persuaded you are too just to permit Impressions to be made from vague & partial Representations.

Indorsed,

August 5, 1780.

Pres. Reed to Wm. Amberson, 1780.

Philad., Aug. 5, 1780.

Sir,

Early in the Summer, we forwarded an Appointment to you as Commissᵧ of Purchases for the County of Westmoreland, with a Sum of State Money to carry them into Effect. Knowing how important Fort Pitt was to the Western Country, we flattered ourselves you would, before this Time, have informed us what Supplies you could furnish for that Post, & acquaint us with your Views, Situation & Prospects. We have had very alarming Accounts from Col. Broadhead, intimating the Danger of his being obliged to evacuate this Post, in consequence of a Scarcity of Provisions. The great Difference of his being supplied by the Country beyond the Mountains, would necessarily incline us strongly to wish you would make the most powerful Exertions for that Purpose, & we intreat you so to do. If the Continental Money would answer your Purposes better than the State, we will endeavor to mix it. Having already quota'd the Counties within the State, we must do the same by yours; & do therefore direct you to supply the Garrison with Fifty Barrells of Flour, 500 Bushels of Indian Corn, & 100 Gallons of Whiskey ℔ Month. After the plentiful Harvest which has been gathered in that County, as we are informed, we hope no Difficulty will occur to prevent your getting this Supply—But if there does, you must impress it: We have no other Means of effecting it, & we trust we shall stand both excused & justified in taking this Measure if Indolence or Avarice interpose their baneful Influence.

We send you Blank Returns, both for the Purchases & Delivery which we shall be glad you would fill up occasionally & send them to the Council & the Continental Board of War, that we may have as perfect an Account of the State of Matters as may be. If, from Circumstances unknown to us, the Post cannot be supplied beyond the Mountains, you will do well to give Mr Lyon the earliest Notice, that he may pay a proper Attention to it. He is the Purchasing

Commissary of Cumberland. The great Distance of the Posts, the many important & interesting Objects in this part of the World, necessarily oblige us to leave much to your Discretion, Activity & Judgment; we hope you will leave us nothing to report on this Head. Mr Scott & the other Gentlemen of Influence in the County, will, we are persuaded, give you all possible Assistance. You will also do well to keep up a constant Intercourse with Col. Broadhead. We hope, with the Blessing of Providence & the kind Assistance sent us by our Allies, that great Things may be done this Summer for delivering our Country from the Calamities of War; the good Effects of capital Success here, will extend to your County, & relieve you from the Distresses you have experienced for some Time. I have also the Satisfaction of informing you, that the Legislature of Virginia has sent an Official Confirmation of the Line run by the Commissioners in 1779; so that we may congratulate the good People of the County on the happy Prospect of internal Peace, if they will vigorously exert themselves agt the common Enemy.

I am, Sir,

Your Obed. & very Hble. Servt.

Col. John Piper to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Bedford County, Augt 6th, 1780.

Sir,

Your favour of the 3d of June* with the Blank Commissions have Been duly Recevd. Since which we Have been anxiously employed in raising our quota of Pennsylvania Volanteers and at the Same time defending our fronteers, but in our Present shattered Situation a full Company Cannot be Expected from this County when a number of our Militia Companys are Intirely Broke up and whole Townships Layd waste. So that the Comunication betwixt our uper and Lower districts is Entirely broke, and our apprehentions of Emediate Danger are not lessond But Greatly Agravated by a most Alarming stroke. Capt Philips, an Experienced good woods man Had Engaged a Company of Rangers for the space of two Months for the Defence of our fronteers, was Surprisd at His Post on Sunday the 16th July, when the Capt. with Eleven of His Company were all taken and Killd. When I Recevd the Intelligence, which was the day following, I marched with only ten Men directly to the Place, where we found the House Burnt to Ashes, with sundry Indian Tomahawks that had been Lost in the action, But found no Person Killd at that Place. But upon taking the Indian tracks, within about one Half mile we found ten of Capt Philips' Company with their Hands tyd and Murdered in the most Cruel Manner.

This Bold Enterprise so Alarmed the Inhabitants that our whole fronteers were upon the point of Giveing way, but upon Aplication to the Lieut of Cumberland County He Hath sent to our Assistance

* See page 297.

one Company of the Penny^a volanteers, which, with the volanteers Raisd in our own County Hath so Encouraged the Inhabitants that they seem Determind to Stand it a Little Longer. We hope our Conduct will Receve your Approbation, and you'l pleas to aprove it By Sending your Special order to our County Commissioner to furnish these Men with Provisions and other necessarys untill Such times as other Provisions Can be made for our Defence. As Colonel Smith will Deliver this I Beg Leave to Recommend you to Him, as He is verrey Capable to Give full Satisfaction to you in Every Particular of our Present Circumstances.

I have the Honor to be
with all Due Respect,
your Excellancys Most obed^t
and verey Humble serv^t,
JOHN PIPER.

N. B. As Colonel Smith, the Bearer, promises to take Particular Care of what May be Committed to His Care By Council for the use of this County, you'l therefore Pleas to Deliver Him for the use of this County the following Artickles, viz. :

Five Hundred w^t of Powder and Lead in Proportion.
One thousand Gun flints.
One dozen falling Axes.
Six Camp kittles.
½ Rheam Writing Paper.

As we are mutch Distressed for want of the above Particulars your Complyance will be a means of encouraging what Remains of the County to Stand this Season, as allso Serving the Publick & he who has the Honour of subscribing himself as Before.

J. P.

Directed,
On Publick Service.
His Excellancy Joseph Reed, Esquire, Precedent in Council.
P^r favour of Colonel Thomas Smith.

Conrad Kreider to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Allen Township, Northampton County,
Aug^st 6, 1780.

May it please your Worships,

When I Received your orders to me from the 25th of July last* for making up the Teams required in the orders of this County, and for Buying the one Hundred Horses, I began to Execute the orders imediately, but soon found that I could not get any by the directions

* See page 445.

I had, for the owners of Horses would set their own price. I then Notified all the Justices of the County to meet on the 5th of this month to Assist me. At the same time in Notifying the Justices a new demand came from his Excellency General Washington by Major Lee with a party of the light Dragoons, for one Hundred four Horse Teams and twenty-four Horses more, either to make them Voluntarily in a short time in this County, or, according to his orders, to Impress. He likewise (the said Major Lee) came to our meeting, and all the Justices of each Township in the County so notified met on the day appointed at the very hour, and unanimously undertook to make up the said one Hundred Teams and twenty-four Horses, laid a Quota on each Township for the same, and likewise for the one Hundred Horses above mentioned, and to have all the Teams to go this Week, and the twenty-four Horses. But to acquaint the Honble the President and Council about the Conductors which I must have to each Brigade of Waggons and likewise to all the said Horses; none will undertake to go without knowing a certainty of wages what to have, and will not go without good wages. So likewise the drivers, of which the most part I shall be obliged to inlist and to pay one month advance; and none of the Conductors will nor can go without some Money for to Supply themselves and the Teams in Necessary articles on the Road, and as I was acquainted that forrage was very scarce, and in the most places none to be had in the Jersey, I ordered each Team to take forrage for eight or ten days from home, for which they will have ready money paid down. Which Conductors, Drivers, forrage, Expresses will require a large Sum of Money, for which the Sum I received last is too small, and for the order I received for Money at the Treasury at Easton I can get none yet as there is none there. I hope you will send me a good sum of Money as soon as may be, as I cannot act without, for which I will honestly account in my Settlement. And to let me know what hire the Conductors and drivers is to have or I must undertake to set a price. Further would I be very glad to know whether our County is now excused from giving the Teams required in the orders of the 25th of July last by sending off so many now; further do I want fifty sertificates more at least, as I have received only fifty and shall want one Hundred.

I am your most
obedient Humble servant,
CONRAD KREIDER, W. M.
for Northampton County.

Directed,

To the Honourable the President & Council in Philadelphia, These.

WARRANT OF SALE BY COURT OF ADMIRALTY TO THE MARSHAL, 1780.

Port of Philadelphia, }
Pennsylvania ss. }

Francis Hopkinson, Esquire, Judge of the Court of Admi-
[SEAL] ralty of the State of Pennsylvania To Matthew Clarkson,
Esquire Marshall of the said State Greeting.—Whereas it is testified unto me that the Cargo on board the Ship or Vessel called the Albion, lately sent into this port and libelled against as Prize by Samuel Walker, qui tam, &c., is in great Danger of Waste, Spoil and Damage, These therefore are to authorize and command you forthwith to sell at publick Vendue all and singular the Goods, Wares and Merchandizes laden and found on board the said Ship at the Time of her Capture; and you are to detain and keep in your safe Custody the monies arising from the said Sales ready to abide the further Order of this Court. And how you shall have executed this Writ make Return to me at a Court of Admiralty to be held at my Chambers in Philadelphia, the twenty first Day of August Inst., together with this Writ Given under my Hand, the Seal of the said Court the seventh Day of August, Anno Domini, 1780.

FRAS. HOPKINSON.

ABRAHAM SMITH TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Cumberland County, Augt. 7th, 1780.

Sir,

I Received the orders of Council for the Volunteers to be put in motion in order to join the main Army, and for those Classes of the Militia to be in readiness, it was unfortunately long Coming to my hand. I have Sent agreeable ~~to said~~ orders to put the Volunteers in motion, which were Raised on this side of the north mountain, but unfortunately I have Sent one Company of them to the fronteers of Northumberland County and the other to the fronteers of bedford which was in a very Distressed Situation. About three weeks ago the Indians Come on a Scout of a Capt. and twelve men in a place Called Woodcock valley and not one of the party escaped they lay I believe ten days without being buried. I went with a party from this County and covered them the best we could which was a very Disagreeable task.

I am apt to think it will be a very Distressing and Disagreeable Circumstance to the fronteers to have the Volunteers taken from them. My Reason for sends them there as soon as they were ready was to Suport and assist the Inhabitants in Saving their harvest. I am afraid the Melitia of this County will not turn out so well as I

could wish. But your Excellence may Depend that every exertion in my Power Shall be used on the occation as I am fully Convinced of the Necessity of our utmost efforts this year in order to Save the Country. This County is now very scarce of Amunition and I have not been able to find any trusty hand and waggon to Send for any but I expect one before long when I flatter myself that Council will Supply us with a sufficient quantity of Powder Lead and flints. I Doubt if the number required of Militia turns out we will not be able to arm them in this County as we have already furnished the Volunteers out of what State arms was here but we have yet a few muskets but they all want bayonets. I am happy to inform you that we have this year had a very plentifull harvest in this County and an appearance of fine Corn and plenty of fruit, and also a good Disposition in a number of the People to receive and give Credit to the State money, if they could get it, but very little of it has Come to this part of the County yet, but if ready money of any kind could be had there Could be plenty of Supplies Purchased, there may a Difficulty arise about Procuring waggons as I believe there is no waggon Master that acts for this County.

I have the honour to be,

your Excellences

most obedient Humble Servant,

AB^m SMITH.

Directed,

On Publick Service.

His Excellence Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Indorsed,

Cumberland County, Aug^st 7, 1780, from Abraham Smith Lieut. of Cumberland County.

M. Hillegas, Treas. to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philad^a, Augt 7th, 1780.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Honble the Board of Treasury* on the 5th Instant to present the two Warrants of Congress on his Excellency the President and the Supreme Executive Council of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania dated June 29th last the one for One Million Seven Hundred and Ninety six Thousand Nine hundred and fifty Dollars, the other for four Million five hundred and Sixty nine

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 444.

Thousand and forty five Dollars and thirty Ninetieths of a dollar, "for Payment and report their Answer."

I am Gentlemen,

wth great Esteem

Your most Obed. Servant,

M. HILLEGAS, Treasr.

Directed,

His Excellency The President and the Supreme Executive Council of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Michael Hillegas, 1780.

To Michael Hillegas, Esq.,

Sir,

In Answer to your Favour received this Morning which has been laid before the Council, I am to acquaint you that with the Orders already accepted—3 Millions of Dollars paid for Beef & other Flesh in the late Exigence of the Army—& the Certificates on Hand for Quarter Masters & Commissaries Debts & which have been paid in for Taxes agreeable to the Resolution of Congress of May last—the Quota of this State subject to the Order of Congress must be fully paid. Notwithstanding this if it was in our Power we should chearfully accept the Orders payable on future Quotas if the State of our Treasury would permit but the vast Expenditure of the State in Consequence of the System for specifick Supplies—& now the Call of the Militia absolutely incapacitates us from giving any Relief. On the 3d Inst. the Treasurer certified that he had only 46,000 Dollars in the Treasury. And our State Money has met with so unkind a Reception especially in this City that we fear it will not answer your Purposes nor those for which it was issued viz. procuring Bread for the Army.

I am Sir,

Your most obed.

& very Hble Serv.,

J. REED.

Indorsed,

August 7th, 1780. To Michael Hillegas, Esqr, Continental Treasurer.

Pres. Reed to Delegates of Congress, 1780.

Gentlemen,

In answer to the Resolve of Congress of the 2d Inst. you will please to inform that Hon. Body that we are drawing up a full comprehensive View of the Taxes, Supplies, Forces &c. of this Commonwealth as requested some Time ago. But the great Extent of the State the Number of Persons to consult & authenticating the necessary Papers unavoidably has taken some Time: But it is now in such Forwardness that it will be laid before Congress in a very few Days. I am with great Respect & Regard Gent.

Your Obed. Hble Ser.

Indorsed,

August 7th, 1780. To the Honble the Delegates of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Col. Ephraim Blaine, 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 3d Inst.* came safely to Hand yesterday. The Requisition you mention has been received some Time ago & forwarded to the different Counties with the most express & positive Orders to carry it into Effect with all possible Energy & Spirit. The Difficulty & Heart burning which ever attends forcing the Property out of the Hands of the People & our Desire to draw from them voluntary Supplies induced us in the Spring to direct the Commissioners to try the utmost Effect of voluntary Purchase. But as you will perceive by the inclosed we have since departed from this Line. This Letter is only one of many wrote on this subject but being more full & comprehensive have thought it proper to send it to you as we are informed that very mistaken Opinions have been taken up on this Subject. It is impossible for Men in publick office to do more than we have done & if any Failure ensues it must be ascribed to the Impracticability of the System, its Partiality in transferring the Burthen of the War on a few of the States & the general Dissatisfaction of the People on Acct of the heavy Debts from yours & the Qr Master's Department. I am credibly informed that the People of your County absolutely refuse to submit to the Impress of any thing & particularly their waggons & Horses & have agreed to oppose Force to Force. I very much fear the same spirit spreading elsewhere. We have to do with Men of free & independent spirits, & the opposition to the Government does not tend to obviate every Discontent of this kind. The Expulsion of the present Men from Office is an object of more Desire to many than the Expulsion of the Enemy from New York. The Variety of Purchasers also creates much Difficulty. There are no

* See page 479.

less than three of a publick Nature in the city frequently contending for the same Cargo of Flour. The sending Hard money into the Country has also contributed to lessen the Inclinations of the People to sell for any other & impede our Purchases of every kind. I have rec^d but one Answer to the enclosed circular Letter, viz. from Berks, which is as follows. "You request I would report to you what Ex-"pectations I have of rendering the supply demanded. In answer "thereto must inform you that as the Face of affairs appear at present "& according to the best of my Judgment therein I think I shall "not be able to procure the Quantity assigned for this Month. But "have Reason to expect & believe I shall be able to make up the "Deficiency whatever it may be in the succeeding months of Sept^r & "Oct. should no unforeseen objection arise. I shall exert every "Nerve in the Line of my Duty & endeavour to furnish all the "supplies required of me at the same time shall avoid incurring un-"necessary Expense & send my returns agreeable to your Request."

We are much surprised at the Demand of Flesh from this State after the Supply given last Spring. Besides you do not seem to reflect that we have all the Posts in the Country to supply with Beef. You are certainly in Error on this Point & will infallibly be disappointed in your Expectations of great Supplies of this Article from hence. The Commissioners have pretty generally made their Reports & agree that if we had not stopp'd them by Proclamation which we did to save appearances & check Extravagance of Price they must soon have stopp'd themselves. You must also recollect that your Deputies here would not send forward great numbers of the Cattle because unfit. And to close all this will cost near £30 Specie ℔ Head on an Average. If these observations added to the former state of our trade & exports do not convince you of the Necessity of drawing these supplies elsewhere we must leave it to time & Experience which will do it beyond all Doubt. Among other supplies demanded are 30,000lb of Bacon, an article which we have always procured from New Jersey & Maryland & not now to be procured in this State on any Terms. One more observation—The same thing cannot be had twice from the same State in the supply of last spring & to the posts agreeable to the arrangement of April we have furnished our Quota of Flesh even if it had been an article of the specific supply originally demanded. You will be wrong therefore in depending upon this State for the supply demanded, and that for the best Reasons in the World because it is not to be had. The Pastures & even Meadows are so burnt with the Drought that we shall soon be obliged to feed the Cattle if there is not a favourable alteration. When the Demand was first made we were unwilling to pronounce decisively but the Reports & Accounts of the Commissioners now enable me to do it & I think it is my Duty.

I must now mention to you that from some Defect of Arrangement there are no Persons appointed at sundry Places to receive supplies as delivered for your Department. Easton is set as a Place of large

Deposit of Flour & Forage but there is no Person there who will take Charge of it. The Waggonmen after having carried them a great Distance can get no Forage issued to their Horses or Provisions to themselves tho' the purchasing Commissioner has it to furnish. It is the same on the Susquehanna. You must be sensible these things have a pernicious effect on the Minds of the People who do not go into the Service very cheerfully at best:—and a very general Idea is prevailing thro' the Country that the old officers are making the Duties of the new as difficult & embarrassing as possible. I do not believe it to be the Case generally, but I think there wants a better Understanding & Communication between the Departments & States. I do not know how it is elsewhere but in this state your officers & the Qr certainly do not possess sufficient knowledge of the Plan to bear the Part they must necessarily do.

I also inclose you a Proclamation which has gone forth into every Part of the State from which you will see we have not been sparing of Coercion. We do not observe any other State has push'd the Business with the same Vigour, or subjected their inhabitants to the like severities. I am Sir, with due Esteem,

Your Obed. & very Hble Ser.

Pres. Reed to David Denny, &c., 1780.

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Resolution of Council requesting & authorizing you to collect Horses within the Bounds of your respective Battalions—If the disaffected cannot furnish, you must call on those of a different Character who can spare them; but in this you will be careful so as not to distress any, & especially any who may be going out in the Militia. Your Exertions on this Occasion will do your Country great Service, & oblige in a particular Manner,

Your Friend & Hbbl. Servt.

Indorsed,

1780, August 8. To David Denny, Joseph Luckey, David Wilson, Thos. Strawbridge, Owen Thomas, John Crosby, George Pierce & Joseph Speer, appointed to collect horses in Chester County.

List of Articles for Hospital, 1780.

To enable Dr Hutchinson to do justice to the Militia of the State as their Physician in Chief, it will be necessary that he should be allowed one good Assistant and four or five Mates.

Every Regiment should carry with them a Surgeon and Mate, to do the common field duty of the Regiment, and this will be done with more convenience and ease to the Sick, & less Expence to the State, could each Regiment be furnished with two Horseman's Tents,

to be pitched in the Rear, or some other convenient and Airy place, by which means the sick will be removed from the well, and being together can be examined with ease, and have their Stores or Medicines distributed to them in such manner that the Surgeon can Account for his Expenditures, and prevent fraud or peculation.

A small Medicine Chest with a few Bandages, Lancets, and a few of the most useful pocket Instruments, will be wanted for each Regiment, unless the Militia are to act together, in which case one Medicine Chest will perhaps be sufficient for Two Regiments. One large Medicine Chest with a quantity of Bandages, two or Three setts of Capital Instruments, and Two or Three cases of Pocket Instruments will be necessary for Dr Hutchinson and his Assistant.

The following Stores, to be under the Directions of Dr Hutchinson, and to be distributed to the Sick, by his Order, will also be necessary:

Three Quarter Casks of Wine, Port or Madeira,
One Hogshead of good Muscovado Sugar,
Two or Three Boxes of Chocolate,
One Tierce of Rice,
One Hundred Wt of Bohea Tea,
Fifty Wt of good fine Tow,
Some Old Linnen, if to be procured.

A Steward or Clerk will be wanted to have the Care of the above Stores.

The Regimental Medicine Chests, &c., must be moved with the Baggage of the Regiment; but a Sufficiency of Waggons (say Three or Four) must be furnished to carry the other Stores and Medicines, and a light Waggon to carry Instruments, Bandages, &c., &c., in the field. And about Fourteen or Sixteen Thousand Dollars will be wanted by Dr Hutchinson, for which he is to be accountable, to purchase several small Articles, which cannot be specified, and for contingent Expences.

The above Estimate supposes the Militia to consist of about 4000, and that when any of the Militia are so ill as to make it improper for them to be taken care of in the Field, they are to be sent to the nearest Continental General Hospital.

Some of the Medicines can be furnished by the Continental Store, and it is proposed to procure the remainder of Dr Gardiner. One Medicine Chest and one Sett of Capital Instruments belonging to the State, are now in Dr Hutchinson's possession.

Vinegar and Spirits should be issued to the sick, when directed by Dr Hutchinson, by the Commissary Gen'.

Indorsed,

May 9, 1780.

JONA. D. SERGEANT TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Philad^a, 9 August, 1780.

Dear Sir,

The Marshall* applies to me in Consequence of a Letter from you & some Conversation since, respecting the Sale of the Salt on board of the Albion.

The Law is clear in its Directions; and I have advised him to represent to the Judges the indispensable Necessity of having it returned upon Oath that the Cargo is *really perishable or damaged, so that it will not keep without further Injury*, previous to the Sale. —This Step, I presume, will be taken; and, if the Facts will warrant a Sale, it will go on:—otherwise, not.

I have the Honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obd^t hble. Servt,

JONA. D. SERGEANT.

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqr.

PRES. REED TO MATTHEW CLARKSON, MARSHAL, 1780.

Sir,

I observe an advertisement to sell by auction in your Name—That others should make a mistake of this Nature would not be much wondered at, but that an Officer of the state should advertise a Violation of its Laws must have a very odd appearance. You will do well to reconsider the acts of assembly, & not proceed unless you are very clear in so doing I am in Haste but with due Esteem,

Sir your obed. Hbble. Serv.

JOS. REED.

Market Street, Aug. 9th, 1780.

Directed,

Matthew Clarkson, Esq.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED, 1780.

War Office, August 9th, 1780.

Sir,

The Board acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of July 21st† and return you again their thanks for the information you have been pleased to give respecting the appropriation of the supplies, as directed by the Commd. in Cheif.

* See pages 491, 500.

† See page 482.

With respect to the deduction you request us to make, the Board beg leave to acquaint you, that the requisition having been made by the committee at camp, it is not in their power to make any alteration, as they are invested with powers superior to those of the Board.* Yr. letter of the 2nd of august† has also been received; The Board are obliged by yr. attention to the fort Pitt. They will inquire into the reason why so many rations have been issued at Lancaster, & Reading, & write to the comm. on ye subject.

I have the honor to be,
with the Highest respect,
Your Excelly. most obed. Serv.

WILLM. GRAYSON.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Timothy Pickering Q. M. G. to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, Aug. 10th, 1780.

Sir,

It being required by the plan for regulating the department of the quarter master general established by Congress on the 15th of July last, that the person appointed deputy quarter master, for any state be approved by the supreme executive thereof. I beg leave to inform you that I have appointed Colonel Samuel Miles deputy quarter master for the state of Pennsylvania; & to recommend him to the approbation of your Excellency, & the honorable the supreme executive council; whose determination thereon, I request may be made and communicated to me as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
your Excellency's
most obedt. Servant,

TIM. PICKERING. Q. M. G.‡

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

* See page 482. † See page 478.
‡ See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 451.

JUDGE HOPKINSON TO MATTHEW CLARKSON, MARSHAL, 1780.

Sir,

Some Doubts having arisen as to the Propriety of suffering Prize Goods to be sold by public Vendue unless the same shall on Inspection be found to be in a perishing condition. I have directed William Heysham & William Budden, Esquires, to examine the Situation of the Cargoe on board the ship Albion, which Cargoe you have advertised for sale this afternoon. Messrs Heysham & Budden have made a report to me that they have carefully examined the "said Cargoe being Liverpool Salt & that they find the same in good "order & well conditioned & in no immediate Danger of suffering by "waste or otherwise.

You are therefore hereby directed not to proceed in a publick Sale of the said salt, but reserve the same to be disposed of as the Court shall order after Trial of the said Ship Albion, & her Cargoe.*

I am Sir

your Obdt Servt

FRA'S HOPKINSON.

August 11, 1780.

Directed,

To Matthew Clarkson, Esqr, Marshal &c., Pa.

COL. JOHN MITCHELL TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Philada, 11 August, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellencys favour of the 10th Inst., was handed me this morning, I shou'd have waited on you personaly on Col. Ryans aplication & receipt of your favor by him, but have been confined with a sore Leg which prevents my going out—but hope to be able to wait on you Today.

I am happy in an oportunity of assuring you, that both from Duty and Inclination every exertion in my power shall be made to furnish the Troops of this State under the Command of your Excellency, with every article of Camp Equipage & other articles necessary for the Campaign—I am so fully convinced of the suplies furnished by this State, and the many and great resources which have been drawn from it, for the support of the Army of the United States, that in my opinion every thing Possible ought to be done to acomodate the Malitia now going out in deffence of their Country—I will indeavour to wait on you to day, and shall use every means in my power to compleat the officers and men as far as the exhausted State of the Stores for want of money to procure the Quantity ordered will allow me the greatest part can be supplied—but the

* See pages 491, 498.

Article of Waggons am much affraid it will not be in my power to provide without the assistance of the Executive power of the State—I have three Ammunition Waggons, one for you & one for each of the Brig. Generals—I have wrote to Lancaster, Lebanon & Reading, to send down all the covered Waggons they have & if any repairs are wanted to get it done Immediately, & if they have not money to draw on me for the Amounts, depending on your Excellendy for assistance, I have as yet received no answer, but will send again this day to the several places above mentioned, I have now wrote to Col. Moore to request he would indeavor to send in Ten open Waggons with the utmost Dispatch, I can not place an intire confidence in receiving them, but believe he will do all in his power.

This morning have an offer of Forty-five pieces of very good Raven Duck at £500, ℔ piece this with what is already bought will amount to about Fifteen Thousand pounds more than the order wch I have received, the Owner will not sell a part without the whole is taken. If you approve of the purchase, & will give me an order for that sum, I will purchase the whole wch will enable me to cover nearly all the Militia—the owner is now waiting my answer, he is a stranger here & leaves Town this day, but if I can pay his order on me in four or five days it will answer.

I am realy criticaly situated having no orders from the Late or Present Quarter master General, & am acting without authority but the situation of affairs induces me to do every thing in my power to promote the publick good, & exert every thing in my power to serve this State & the general cause.

I have the honor to be
with respect Sir
your most obd. hum. Servt
JNO. MITCHELL.
D. Q. M. Gl.

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President.

Pres. Reed to Col. John Mitchell, 1780.

Sir,

Have just received your Favour,* & am obliged to you for your assurance of doing every Thing in your Power for our Equipment, It will be attended with many Inconveniences to have one Part of the Troops covered, & the other not, & at present that is our situation. I would therefore wish to have the Duck you mention but the Demands on our Treasury at this Time are such that I fear unless the Owner could wait a few Days it will be impracticable to comply with the Demand, But if he is a real Friend to his Country, & an assurance

* See page 500.

of short Payment by an Order given on the Treasury payable a few Days hence, I should hope he will oblige us. As I have in some Measure taken Leave of the Council I can only wish you to state the Matter to them, & if the Gentlemen will accede to this, & it meets their approbation it will quite coincide with my Judgement, & wishes, But at present Mr. Rittenhouse has not the Means of complying with it instantly, I perceive I shall be much embarrassed with Respect to the ammunition or close Waggons, the Q. M. & Commiss^y have Papers of Consequence, little Stores &c., could we not contrive to borrow from M. Holker replacing them by those expected from the Country or by fitting up some old ones or accommodating one of the common covered Waggons by some alterations.

I am

in Haste, yours

J. REED.

I have returned your Letter that you may lay that & this before the Council.

Directed,

Col Mitchell present.

Sec'y. Matlack to Thos. Bradford, 1780.

Sir,

His Excellency the President requests that you will be particularly careful to prevent as much as possible a communication between the officers taken on board the English Packet and dissaffected Characters, until proper enquiry has been made and further information given you hereon. This being a matter of the utmost importance, you will see the necessity of an immediate attention to this business.

I am, with great respect,

Your most obedient Servant,

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Sunday, Aug. 12, 1780.

John Patton to Board of War, 1780.

Berkshire Furnace, 12 Aug^t, 1780.

Gentlemen,

I have in consequence of an agreement made with Capt. Joy for Ninety Tons of Shells and Shott, put my Furnace in Blast and am now at work for the Continant how long I may continue depends on having my Workmen exempted from Militia duty The principal part of my workmen are now ordered out and unless you procure from

his Exelency and Counsel an order to the Lieutenant of the County I cannot keep my works going.

I do assure your honors I did not intend puting my Works in blast till Winter knowing that if the Militia should be call'd my Business must Stop till Captain Joy showed me his Instructions and assured me that on writing to your Honours my workmen as well as the Hession prisoners should not be call'd off from me. Mr Bradford has wrot for them and threatened to put my Bond in Suit if the are not immediately returned.

I am Gentlemen,
with every respect
Your Honours
most Humble Servt,
JOHN PATTON.

Directed,
The Honorable Board of War.

Sec'y Matlack to Col. Timothy Pickering, 1780.

Philadelphia, Augt 13, 1780.

Sir,

Your letter to His Excellency the President of the 10th instant has been laid before the Council and am commanded to signify to you their approbation of your appointment of Colo Samuel Miles to be Deputy Quarter Master General for the State of Pennsylvania.*

With very great respect
I am your most obedient
humble Servant,
T. M., Sec'y.

Directed,
Col. Timothy Pickering, Q. M. G.

Col. Joseph Hart to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Monday Morning, August ye 14th, 1780.

Hond Sir,

After asking Pardon for not writing sooner, or oftner; I am to inform what Progress I have made in raising the Militia. On the receipt of Councils Orders for that purpose I sent Coppies and directions to all the Sub Lieuts who I believe are doing all they can to get the Men off. I have not been able to get more than 1 Company out of the Battalion I live among, the Number of Privates is 57. They were to have March'd to Trenton on Saturday, but an Excurtion of the Generals, with a part of the Men to the Cross-Roads pre-

* See page 499.

vented, yesterday morning however they get off. How many the other Bat^s will turn out I cannot say, as I do not understand any of them were to march before to Day; but I am of Opinion the whole will make little more than 200 Men and those not all Arm'd neither. This perhaps you will think strange, but so it is, and there are many Concurring reasons for it, which I shall not now take time to enumerate. I wish however no more may be called 'till those now going out return.

I had much trouble before I could get the Field Officers. Collonel McMasters on whom I relied for a Considerable time, at length quite gave it up, it was then next offered to Roberts, but his answer was that he could not for several reasons; McElroy was then called upon, who accepted it with a good Grace.

The County dredfully perplexed on account of the Waggons & Horses now to be Collected. The Requisitions of Council could not be made up before we are obliged to Promise 80 more and which are now Quotaed on the respective Townships, and I suppose we must suffer Military Execution if we do not procure them, and which I am of opinion will not be done. Not a Man even of those who may have a Horse to spare, but w^d almost as leve give him away as to take the Certificates, and not a man Possessed of a Team but what would rather lend it to a good Neighbour, than Hire it into the Continental Service for their promised pay.

Had Major Lee and his Dragoons Carried the Horses from the Races the other day, he had done his Country an Essential piece of Service, not by Procuring a Number of Useless Horses who had never look'd through a Collar, nor never will till they get other Masters, I say not only by this but by preventing the like wast and Consumption of time hereafter. It seems a little Problematical to me, that one Mans raising a Mutiny should put a stop to so good a work, and so far Executed. By this they seem to have got the better both of the Civil & Military Power, however the little acquisition made at the Conclusion of their Sport, by Gen. Lacy will cut their Combs a little.—As soon as I can get the account from the Subs how many Men they have sent out, Counsel shall hear from me again, meanwhile

I am Hon^r Sir,

Your most Obedient

and Very Humble Servt,

JOSEPH HART, L. B. C.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Gen. Lacey to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Trenton, Augt 14th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I rec^d your Excellencies Letter of the 13th this morning by Serjant Judson. I arrived at this place Last evening and a few Militia both from Philadelphia and Bucks had got in before me they are now quartered on the Inhabitants in the Town, they continue coming in from those Counties and I find many of them are without Arms or Blankets.

The Stores here are very trifeling indeed the Commissary this moment informed me he had Issued every pound of Flesh he had in possession to the Militia who had arrived, and that his expectations for a futer Supply was very gloomy he had Wrote to some of the Contractors in this Neighborhood and the answers from all of them were unfavorable I fear we must starve unless supplied from Pennsylvania there is a pretty good Bank of short forrage and some hay in Store, not one Quarter Master is with the Millitia nor one field Officer yet arrived, the Militia comes in small squads and appear very aukward & out of order however will endeavour to organize them as fast as I can I have been on the ground back of Lamberton and think it very suitable for a Camp so shall order the Troops to encamp there. The Camp Kettles have all been sent on from this place to Camp therefore we must be supplied from Phila.

I am with respect and Esteem,

Your Excellencies most ob. Servt,

JOHN LACEY.

Directed,

His Excellency Jos. Reed, Esqr, President.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office Aug. 14, 1780.

Sir,

We have just received a Request from the Q. M. G. of the Militia of Pennsylvania for 2000 Cartouch Boxes, D^o Bay^t Belts, 10 Drums, 24 Drum Heads, 20 Fifes, 700 Muskets, 700 Bayonets, 2000 Brushes, 3 Wires, 9000 Flints, 6000 Doz. of Cartridges.

Our stock on Hand of all these Articles is so distressingly low that we are embarassed between our Inclination to supply the Articles requested for the State & our Inability to furnish even in a small Degree the Calls made upon us for the Continental Troops of

which your Excellency will form a Judgment by the following account of the Articles we have on Hand;

707 Repaired Cartridge Boxes.
637 New D°.
530 Musketts & Bayonets fit for service.
80,000 Musket Cartridges.
18,000 Flints.

We have the new Levies of this State to equip & expect a full Regiment of Continental Troops enlisted for the War & raised by the State of Maryland as an additional Regiment to pass thro' this City & depending on us to furnish them with Arms & Accoutrements. We wish these Demands were the only Requisitions for we have this Day received from General Knox a pressing Letter desiring us to send on five thousand stands of Arms to Camp.

We have ordered the Drums & Fifes, Drum Heads, Brushes & Wires, 4000 Flints & 20,000 Cartridges. As to the Arms & Accoutrements we have withheld the orders for the present for the Reasons we have before mentioned. If the State cannot do without them we will spare half the number required, but it will much distress us.

We have the Honor to be
with the greatest Respect & Esteem
your very Obed. Servants
RICHARD PETERS.
By order & in Behalf of the Board.

Directed,
On Public Service.
His Excellency President Reed.
(War Office.)

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, Augt 15, 1780.

Sir,

The Board have the Honor to transmitt your Excellency a Letter just received from Gen'l Dickinson which when perused we beg you will be pleased to return with any Information or Opinion your Excellency may think it necessary to give the Board on the Subject.

We have the Honor to be
with the greatest Respect & Esteem
your very obed. Servants,
RICHARD PETERS.
By order & in Behalf of y° Board.

P. S. We also enclose a Letter from Mr. Patton* relative to the

* See page 502.

Exemption of his Workmen. We have had some other Applications on this Subject & fear our Supplies of shot & shells will fail on account of the Men being obliged to leave the Furnaces. But as we have Nothing in our Power on the Subject we must submit the matter to your Excellency & the Honble Council.

Directed,

On Public service.

His Excellency President Reed, Com. in Chief of the Militia of Pennsylvania.

(War Office.)

(COPY) GENL. PHIL. DICKINSON TO BOARD OF WAR, 1780.

Philad^a, 14th August, 1780.

Gentlemen,

I am informed that Mr. President Reed has ordered three thousand Militia from the State of Pennsylvania to rendezvous at this place, (a part of which are already arrived) where it is expected they will continue some time. Neither Provisions or forage being provided for their reception—the inhabitants are greatly alarmed on the occasion. As the supplies for the Army pass through this post the Board can determine the propriety of this movement. In addition to which I beg leave to inform the Board, that in Consequence of a letter received from His Excellency General Washington, our militia have orders to hold themselves in readiness to march on the shortest notice; and that this post is the direct route of the Western Militia which will be greatly impeded by having such a body of troops quartered here.

If the services of the Pennsylvania Militia are not immediately necessary at Camp, I submit it to the Board whether it would not be eligible, that they should remain in their own state and not add to the distress which this has so often and necessarily experienced. I thought it my duty to mention those circumstances to the Honble Board.

And have the honor to be
Gentlemen, your most obedient
humble servant,

PHILEMON DICKINSON.*

Directed,

Honble Board of War.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 454.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War office, Aug. 15 1780.

Sir,

The board have it in contemplation to reduce the very great number of unnecessary and expensive posts, established throughout the Continent, to a more economical arrangement.

There is at this time a Com'y of prisoners & his Dependants at Easton, where there are only a few prisoners who might as well be kept at Reading. The board therefore beg leave to solicit of your Excellency, & the honorable Council, a small guard of militia,—a subaltern officer, & about 15 or 20 men will be sufficient to remove the prisoners at Easton to Reading.

I have the honor to be,

With the highest respect,

Y^r Excellency's most obed,

Hble Serv by order,

BEN. STODDERT, Sec.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq. President of Pennsylvania.

Brig. Gen. John Lacey to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Trenton, Augt 15th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Since I wrote you yesterday I have been a second time on the ground back of Lamberton and have Changed my sentiments in respect of encamping there the ground is very good but there is no Water except from the River near it and the Militia will be very much displeased if they are obliged to drink the river Water, so I have now fixed on the ground a little to the South of Trenton where I am told there is good Water plenty. I was with Col. Cox and Col. Furman yesterday and find them very obliging, Col. Furman was with me on the encamping ground both times.

Col. Coats Came here last Evening from Phil^a and informs me the Troops are Coming on fast from the County and City, and I also expect they are Coming from Bucks it alarms me exceedingly to think we shall have as many men here and not a mouthful of Provision to give them except it be flour. I think it my Duty to mention the melancholly fact to you that something may be done for depend the Militia will be very uneasy without provisions and the Consequence that may happen, I cannot foretell, there is a great grumbling subsisting among them already with respect to the great

difference of pay, I cannot learn there is two Counties in the State alike and I fear without a regulation in that matter, we shall be troubled with them but provision is now the great object perhaps an order from Council to the purchasers in pennsylvania to send foreward meat to this place would be advisable.

I am with real esteem,
and Respect your Excellencies,
most Humble and most ob. Servt.
JOHN LACEY.

His Excellency Jos. Reed Esq. President.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1780.

Gentlemen:

In Answer to your Favour received this Morning with the Inclosures, can only say that the Call of the Militia was made by Gen[l] Washington, the Place of Rendezvous appointed by him. Foreseeing many Difficulties would arise from the Call of the Militia at this Season & under such Circumstances, the Council took a Liberty not warranted by the General's Letters, viz., to order them to hold themselves in Readiness instead of being at Trenton first on the 15 July, then on the 26th.—Of the latter Order there has been no Countermand, but a Confirmation, as the General, in a subsequent Letter, intimates that he supposes the Militia of this State were at Trenton; thus conveying, in our Judgment, a delicate Censure on us for non Compliance with Orders to be at Trenton the 26th Ult.—How far it may be necessary to call forth the Militia, we presume the General must judge—& also, as to the Time, Place & Circumstance. When he directed them to rendezvous at Trenton, it was to be supposed that some Provision was made, or we should have been desired to provide ourselves. The Presid., some Time ago, informed the Q[r] Master of that Post that the Troops would be there on the 12th; & tho' it was suggested there would be Difficulties, he did not, in his Answer, intimate there was no Provisions, but that he would endeavour to provide for them; notwithstanding, the March has been properly delayed, that they might carry some Provisions with them;—the Number of Men in Trenton when Gen[l] Dickinson wrote, could not exceed 50 or 100, & we much question whether as yet there are 500. Provisions, Forage, &c., have been provided in this City & sent up—& the Presid[t], as we understand, has directed the Troops to encamp 3 Miles from the Town, so as to avoid incommoding the Inhabitants. If the General's Letter had been of the Tenor of those to New Jersey, it would have been extremely satisfactory to us, as the calling the Militia in this sultry Weather, must be very disagreeable to Officer & private, as well as inconvenient to the State. From the Style of Gen. Dickinson's Letter, which appears to be written in Haste & Warmth, the People of that State may presume that we are officious

& over zealous on the occasion; we therefore should be glad the Circumstances may be stated to Gen. Dickinson, & if your Hon. Board or Congress will countermand the Orders contained in the enclosed Letter, the Presid^t will recall the Troops: but in such Case he hopes to be fully exonerated with his Excellency the Commander in Chief. The County Militia have not yet march'd in any Numbers. There will be Time to stop them, & if they are not necessary at Camp, they can be usefully employed at Home.

With Respect to Mr Patton's Workmen, the Board must be sensible of our Difficulty in exempting where the Law has not done it; as the Men will soon be under the Command of the Presid., we doubt not he will do every Thing that can be done with Propriety to relieve them.

I am, Gent., respectfully,
Your Obed. Hbbl. Servt.

Indorsed.
August 15, 1780.

Council to Col. L. Nicola, 1780.

In Council, Philada. August 17th, 1780.

Sir,

Council having reason to believe that a great number of Deserters from the federal army are frequently taken on board Privateers and other Vessells outward bound from this port to the great damage of the Publick service.

You are therefore requested to use your utmost endeavours either Personally or by any Commissioned Prudent officer, you may depute for that purpose to detect and secure all such Deserters found on board any such ships or Vessells in this port.

The Capt. and other officers on board are required to give you all Possible aid, & assistance in execution of this Bussiness.

You are requested to report your success from time to this Board, and also inform Council if you meet with any opposition you are to report the names of the Persons so offending that they may be dealt with as the Case may require.*

Copy of Letter from Lt. Gov. Digges of Virg. to Major Forsyth, 1780.

In Council, Richmond, Aug. 17th, 1780.

Sir,

Your letter from Fredericksburg of the ninth Inst. was this day (the Govr being absent) put into my hands by Mr. Tate, I did immediately lay the same before the *Council*, who upon mature de-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 455.

liberation have determined that a warrant should issue upon your account to Mr. Tate, for the sum of fifty thousand pounds to enable him for the present to confirm his contracts for meal for the Convention troops. I am directed at same time to inform you that this is the last, & only sum that can or will be given on account of the exhausted state of the treasury, for the use of the Convention troops, a circumstance this which it was thought the more necessary to inform you of as we are told by Mr. Tate, the bearer of your letter that you very soon intended to go to Philadelphia and may therefore have an opportunity of representing to Congress or to the Comy. Gen. of Provisions how impracticable it will be for this State to engage to make such further advances in your department whilst the demands for the southern troops occur so frequently as totally to exhaust our treasury and with it our abilities to comply with any future requisitions at least *untill* next meeting of the General assembly.

DUDLEY DIGGES, Lt. Govr.

(Copy.)

Indorsed,

Richmond, 17 Aug. 1780.

Gen. Wm. Irvine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp Tappan, Augt. 17th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

(The eleventh Regiment being now annexed to my Brigade,) you will see by the inclosed representation of Col. Hubley's that there has been some mistake respecting that Regiment.

I therefore request your Excellency will be pleased to direct the Commission made out, and forwarded either to me or Col. Hubley.

I have the honor to be Sir,
with the most perfect esteem,
Your Excellency's most,
obedient Humble Servant,
WM. IRVINE.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire, Philadelphia.
Public Service.
Favd. by Col Harmer.

Col. Adm. Hubley to Gen. Irvine, 1780.

Camp near Kings Ferry, Aug. 6th, 1780.

Sir,

A number of Vacancys in my Regt. having taken place, I must beg you will request the Governor to have them filled up by the following Gentlemen, who stand next in rotation, and which will be conformable to the Establishment of the army, Viz.

Capt. Lieut. Jeremiah Jackson, prod. to Captain, vice Capt. Forrester, died March 16th, 1780.
Lieut. Edward Burke, prod. to Capt. Lieutenant, vice Capt. Lieut. Jackson, prod March 16th, 1780.
2nd Lieut. William Huston, prod. to first Lieutenant, vice Septimus Davis resigned Feby 24th, 1780.
2nd Lieut. Jacob Weitzell, prod. to first Lieutenant, vice Lieut. Lemmon, resigned March 11th, 1780.
Ensign Robert Allison, prod. to first Lieutenant, vice Lieut. Burke, prod. March 16th, 1780.
Ensign Francis Thornbury, prod. to 1st. Lieutenant, vice Benjn. Street, resigned May 25th, 1780.
Doctor Reading Beaty, appointed Surgeon in room of Decr. Wiggins resigned, May 1st, 1780.

The above arrangement (the two latter vacancys excepted, which have taken place since,) has been sent to the Governor some considerable time since for his approbation, but no attention has been as yet paid thereto, owing as I am informed to some representation being made that there was a dispute of rank in the regiment. As the representation is without foundation but on the Contrary the arrangement is perfectly agreeable to the officers, and consistent with the Establishment of the army. I must beg you will request the Governors attention to the Commissions, and have them sent as soon as possible, and put the regiment on a footing with the rest of the line.

I have the honor to be,
with respect Sir, your Ob. hum. Serv.

ADM. BLE Y, Jr. Colo.
Com. 11th, Pa. Rt.

Brigr. Gen. Irvine.

I have inquired into the state of the 11th Regiment, and believe the arrangement on the other side to be just.

WM. IRVINE B. G.

Camp Toppan, Augt. 17th, 1780.

Col. Matthew Smith to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

I take the liberty of a few lines, Favoured by Col^e Hosterman, who is the Bearer of a Petition from a Number of the Inhabitants of North^d County;* it would have Been sign^d by a much larger Number, But the Indians Makeing a Stroke on Tuesday last at two Different places, the last of which being far within the Frontier, as low as Middle Creek & within Eight Miles of this place, None But Delegates Could possibly Attend. The People Seem More Discourag^d than I Ever Saw them, &, indeed, are somewhat Exasperated. None of the Seven Months' Men Sent to this place, & the German Reg^t, weak as it is, to be Call^d away, although So lately Reckon^d in the Quota for the Defence of this part of the State; there is Some Expressions in the Petition, in my Opinion, rather severe: it was the Sentiments of a Number of Other Gentlemen, also, at the time the People Met; But Could not Possibly Get the Language of the Petition any thing more Soft'ned—However, we hope it will Be Look^d on as heat & inadvertance of a Distress'^d People, Rather than the Sentiments of a Cooler Hour. I would Beg some of the Gentlemen in Council would Give a Small Historical Acc^t of the Affairs of Our Camp, Either by writing a few lines, or incloseing the papers for some time past; as we are here Seated where we know very little but the Distresses amongst our Selves, if we Could Circulate the News from Other Parts of the Continent, Either for or Against us, it would be some Satisfaction; if we prosper any place, it is a Consolation—if any People Else Suffers as North^d County, then it Can be said we have Fellows Equally in Distress. I shall Stop, with my Most Hearty Wishes for the Prosperity of His Exc^y Genl Washington & his Brave little Army; & am, with Sincerity, your Most Ob^t & very Hum^e Servt,

MATT^w SMITH.

Sunbury, 18th Aug^st, 1780.

Directed,

To His Exc'y Joseph Reed, Esqr, President.

Fav^d by Col^e Peter Hosterman.

Col. Dan. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Fort Pitt, Aug. 18th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

On friday last, ten men were killed by a party of Wyandot Indians, above the Forks of Cheat; this is all the mischief that has been done of late.

The Troops have been without bread for several days, and begin

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 461.

to murmur; but I expect to get a little grain chopped in a bad Horse mill, near this place, and, if possible, prevent a mutiny untill a further supply can be procured. This Country has grown a great quantity of Grain this Season, but the waters are so low, that Flour or meal cannot be manufactured. And I hear the pack-horse men have left the Service: so that we have a dull prospect before us, and not a shilling have we to purchase with.

The Enemy have lately killed & taken near four hundred Men, Women & Children, from Licking Creek, near Kentucke, and it's probable their next attempt will be against this part of the Country; but I flatter myself they cannot approach us with a considerable force, without being discovered by the friendly Indians, who will give immediate Notice.

Necessity has compelled me to evacuate for a short time the posts of Armstrong & Crawford, but I shall return the Garrison thither so soon as they can be subsisted. Whilst the water continues in its present state, I cannot conceive that the Inhabitants of Westmoreland are in Danger.

I have the Honor to be, with the utmost respect & esteem, your Excellencies most Obed^t Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

His Excell'y Govr Reed.

JAMES SEARLE TO PRES. OF CONGRESS, 1780.

On board the ship Jay, at sea, in Latitude 45–35; Longitude about 20,—18th August, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I take the Liberty to trouble your Excellency with a line directed to you, which you will be so obliging, after perusing it, to send to His Excellency President Reed. It will inform you and him, that after a great deal of bad weather and head Winds, we are thus far advanced on our passage, with all things in good order on board the ship. As the Winds seem to promise favourably, we are not without hopes of seeing Port Le-Orient in eight or nine days.

This letter is intended by the ship General Pickering from Bilboa to Boston, and will serve to inform our friends of our situation.

His Excellency Governor Reed will be so obliging as to transmit the substance of this letter to Mrs Searle by express, as it will be a great relief to her mind. He will also please to inform her that I have been entirely free from sickness the whole passage; that we have a fine ship, an obliging Captain, and a great Plenty of all things good on board.

I am, with the greatest respect,
Your Excellency's most obedient
and most humble servant,
JAMES SEARLE.

To His Exc'y the President of Congress.

Gen. St. Clair to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp at Tappan, Augt 19th, 1780.

Sir,

I enclose a Letter from Major Church to General Hand, and from General Hand to me on the Subject of certain Vacancies that have happened in the fourth Regiment. The gentlemen are anxious to have their Commissions but the appointments must go thro Councill to the Board of War—besides these it is now confidently asserted that Colonell Connor has been lost at sea—that will make a Promotion of Colonell Harmar to the Lieut Colonell Commandant of the seventh—Major Church Lieutenant Colonell of the 6th vice Harmar, and Captt Nice Major to the fourth, vice Church—if this misfortune has happened. The Councill will please to make these appointments also that the Commissions may be sent up as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be

Sir your Excellencys most obedient

humble Servant

AR. ST. CLAIR.

Directed,

On Public Service,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Col. Danl. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Fort Pitt, Augt 21st, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I am informed by express from the Delaware Towns that Colo. Clark, of the State of Virginia, with a body of about one Thousand men has destroyed the Shawnese Town at Chellacoffy, and is pursuing the Indians to the upper Town.

How happy should I be, if it was in my power to attack the Wyandots & Mingoes at this time. But I cannot March with one Days allowance of Bread & three or four of Beef. What can be the reason that no provission is made for the Troops in this Department I am at a loss to devise. Had I been told to make the best shift in my power, I should not now have been thus destitute of supplies, but I in full expectation of receiving adequate supplies have waited, untill the difficulty of obtaining them has greatly increased. Could a Considerable Sum of our State money be obtained our wants would speedily be supplyed, for I am informed that the People will gladly receive it in payment for their produce.

The late resolve of the Virginia Assembly has greatly disturbed

their Adherents, and I am afraid it will injure our Military affairs untill the line is fully run.

If we could be furnished with some half Johannes's here we could recruit a number of excellent men for the Service, but they will scarcely agree to go all the way to Philad^a to be mustered before they receive their Bounty. I think it sounds best upon the Drumhead.

I take the liberty to inclose Captn. Swearingens recruiting Acc^t and will remit those of the other Gentlemen concerned so soon as they are settled.

I have the honor to be
with the most perfect respect
& esteem your Excellencies
most Obed't Serv't

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Directed,
To His Excell'y Gov. Reed.

Col. L. Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Barracks, 21st Aug. 1780.

Gent^n,

Being called by my late Landlord, Mr. James Benezet, for rent due to him, I am under the necessity of requesting your order on the Treasurer for 600 dollars, the amount of a years pay as Town Major, ending the 19th Inst.

When I undertook to put the barracks in such order as would in great measure prevent a continuance of the former mischiefs I expected, from the information of the workmen, that the materials, viz., Joists, Doors with their appurtenances & bricks taken from the condemned cellars, & which could not be of service in future repairs, would nearly, if not fully repay the expence, for which purpose I sold some on the best terms I could & proposed disposing of the other, but Christian Sheffer informs me they will all be wanting in the works now carrying on at Fort Mifflin, & that they will not bring the price that new will cost, on this notice I thought proper to desist, & lay the matter before you & request your directions. The cost of work done amounts 6653¾ Dol., & of materials sold to 1845 Bal^c 4808¾, Besides the materials that cannot be of use in repairing the barracks I have boards & nails to a considerable amount.

I am with respect
Gentlemen your most obed. Servt

LEWIS NICOLA, T. M.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, August 22d, 1780.

Sir,

In your Letter of the 5th which was this Day read in Congress, you are pleased to inform Congress, that "on the first day of June last an Act of Assembly passed adopting the resolutions for calling in the Bills in Circulation, and emitting new Bills on certain Funds, but with a suspending Clause of its Operation until a Majority of the States should pass Laws of a similar nature:" that "an official Declaration from his Excellency the President of Congress or the Delegates of the State to the Supreme Executive Council, that a Majority of the States had passed Laws to the above effect would immediately give Efficacy to the law of this State.

I am therefore now to inform you that a majority of the United States have passed laws adopting the resolutions of the 18 March 1780 for calling in the Continental Bills in Circulation, and emitting new Bills on certain Funds.*

I have the Honour to be, with the highest Esteem
& regard your most honable servant
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

Directed,

His Excellency the President & Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

David Deshler to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Allentown, 24th Augt, 1780.

Sir,

I have sent Mr Charles Deshler my assistant, who will call on you, for a supply of cash, and request you'll be pleas'd to send me Fifty thousand pounds for the use of purchasing supplies for the army, without that article it is impossible for me to carry on the Business in the manner I could wish.

I can purchase one hundred head of cattle in one weeks time, if I was supplied with money for that purpose.

I have the offer of five hundred Bushels of Wheat from one person, but cannot have it for want of money.

I am sir, Your Obt Humb St
DAVID DESHLER,
Commiss for Northm. County.†

Directed,

Public Service.
The Honorable Jos. Reed, Esq. Prest Philadelphia.
By Mr. Deshler.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 459.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 460.

Col. A. Lochry to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Twelve mile Run ye 24th Augt 1780.

May it please your Excellency,

I received the supplys you were pleased to order for the Protection of this County, saif and in good order, some months past I flattred myself to have the Pleashur of reporting to your Excellency some good news from the Indian Cuntery in Person. As Col^l Broadhead in connection with the Inhabitance on this side the mountains had laid a plan for the Reduction of some of the hostail Indian towns. Which a scarcity of provitions hass prevented for some time althow I flatter myself an excurtion of that Neature will soon be effected.

Our Col^o of the Pennsylvania Volentears wore in service before the act of Assembly came to this County, and reased on the same Plann the Law Prescrib, But not so long Ingaged & one officer too many, as we had three posts to occupy it wass thought too Captains & too Lieut^s wass necessary, if your Excellency should think our conduct consistant in this matter, I would be thankfull that one other commition be sent.

The Recruiting service for the Ranging Company is going on. I was informed this day by Capt Guttery that he hass enlisted twenty able boyde'd Recruits, the Lieu^t of that Company declined serving as he was before appointed a Captain in the troops now the Pennsylvania Volentears. John Jamison who was formerly a Lieut^t in Capt Irwins company of Raingers has acted in that capasity in the recruiting service. I humbly Request his commition may be sent, as I know him to be tollerable well Qualify^d for that business.

Our Pennsylvania Volunteers have been supply'd from the continental stors untill the 7th Instant and drew every necessary from Col^l Broadhead until a scarcity of Provitions oblidged him to send them into the enhabitants, some of the troops are sick and cannot be attended by the continantal Sergants. I was under the necessity to apply to Doctor Alexander Lindsay for their Releiff who is very willing to render his services if a reasonable Restitution is made & found in Medisins. He has sent a small list of the Medesons Requisite which, I think will be cairfully apply'd to the use mentioned the Pennsylvania Volentears have been in service sence the 10th April and is now in want of some pay, the Continent is oblidged to pay them until the fifteenth of June. But as cash is not to be had from that fund & the troops in want, I must request your Exellency may appoint some person as paymaster for the purpose mentioned.

Knapsacks Camp Cettels and other necessarys in the Quartermasters Department will likewise be wanted. In particular Wrighting paper & orderly Books. We have had no dammage done by the

savages since aprile which in a great meashure must be ascribed to the cair & Vigolence of our troops.

I have the honnour to be your Exellencys
Most Obedient and very humble servt.
A. LOCHRY.

Directed,
To his Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr. Presedent of the State of Pennsylvania.

—

List of Medicines.

℔viij. Sel. Epsom,
℔j. Fol: Senæ,
℔j. Manna Op't.
℔j. Pulv. Jallap,
ʒiv. Calomel,
ʒiv. Pulv: Ipecac.
ʒiij. Tart. Emet.
ʒiv. Merc: Præcip: Rub.
℔j. Pulv. Cort. Peruv.
ʒiv. Pulv. Contrayerva. Con.
℔ss. Pulv. Valerian.
℔j. Pulv. Rhei.
ʒij. Mer. Corross. Subt.
℔j. Argent. viv.
℔ij. Sal. Nitri.
℔ij. Crem. Tart.
ʒiv. Vitriol. Cærul.
℔ss. Pulv. Cantharides.
℔iss. Gum. Camphor.
℔viij. Ungt. Basilicon.
℔j. Empl. Corroborans.
℔j. Bals. Capivi.
ʒi. Ol. Menth. Vulg.

Council to Lieutenants of certain Counties, 1780.

Sir,

In consequence of a Letter receiv'd yesterday from his Excell^y the President of the State dated Trenton Aug^st 23d, we are ordered to countermand the orders heretofore sent you respecting the march of ye Lancaster County Militia. Such as are embodied to continue at the place of Rendezvous as you may think proper, to hold themselves in readiness to proceed at a Minute's notice their Route & place of Destination will be communicated to you in due time. They must provide them with Blankets, Arms, &c.

Indorsed,—Aug. 24, 1780. Lancaster, York & Cumberland.

Resolutions of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, August 25th, 1780.

Resolved, That when the Governors or Presidents of two or more States act in the field together, he who has been longest in Office shall take rank of all other Governors or presidents except the Governor or President of the State in which they are, who in his

own State, notwithstanding he may be youngest in office, always takes rank.

Resolved, That whenever the Governors or Presidents of States act in conjunction with Continental troops, they shall for the time they so act in conjunction have the rank of Major Gen[l] in the line of the Army.

Provided always, That nothing in the above resolutions shall exclude the Governor of any State from a seperate command over the Militia of the State in which he presides where not inconsistent with the particular views of the Commander in Chief.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Resolutions of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, August 26th, 1780.

Congress took into Consideration the Report of the Committee appointed to devise ways and means for preventing the farther Issues of Certificates, and for Carrying into Effect the Resolutions of the 18th of March last, &c.,* And therefore came to the following Resolutions.

Whereas a large and immediate Supply of Money is necessary for carrying on the Operations of the War and for the payment of debts due for Supplies heretofore furnished, and for the payment of Interest on Loan Office Certificates,

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to the several States to take the most speedy & effectual Measures in their Power for drawing in their respective Quotas of the continental Bills of Credit to be destroyed, either by a Tax to be collected immediately, or by exchanging for them new Bills to be emitted pursuant to the Act of the 18th of March last, at a rate not less than forty of the former for one of the latter, so that the whole of the said new Bills may be issued.

That it be recommended to the several States to raise by Taxes, payable in the Bills, emitted pursuant to the Act aforesaid, or in specie, their respective Quotas of three Millions of Dollars agreeable to the apportionment of the 7th October, 1779, and pay the same into the Treasury of the United States as soon as possible, the payment to be fully compleated by the last day of December next; each State to be allowed Interest for the same from the Time it is paid, to be hereafter adjusted according to a Resolution of the 6th of Octob[r], 1779.†

That Major General Greene, late Quarter Master General, and Jeremiah Wadsworth, late Commissary General of purchases, and the present Commissary General of Purchases, respectively render an account to the Board of Treasury of the amount of the Monies

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 286.
† See Archives, Vol. VII., p. 782.

due from them on Certificates or otherwise on publick Account, specifying the sum due in each State in order that Warrants may issue in their favour on the Treasurers of such States for payment of the same out of the Monies to be collected for the United States as aforesaid: which Warrants being paid shall be accepted by the Treasurer towards such States. Quota of the Monies to be raised as aforesaid. And it is further recommended to such States to provide that such Certificates of the said Quar Master General and Commissaries and those who purchased under them be received in payment of the said Taxes to the amount of such Warrants under proper Regulations for preventing frauds.

And to prevent the Possibility of any Depreciation in the Bills to be emitted agreeably to the Act of the 18th March aforesaid, that it be most earnestly recommended to the several States not to issue Bills of Credit for a Currency on any consideration whatever to a greater amount than their respective Quotas of the new Bills, stated in the Act aforesaid. And that the Bills of Credit emitted by any of the States since the first day of January last and redeemable in Specie at par, be considered as part of the Proportion of the Money reserved by the said Act of the 18th of March to the use of the State.

Resolved, That all and singular the Creditors of these United States for Supplies furnished the army or the transportation thereof, shall be entitled to receive the just value of the Sums due to them respectively in the Bills of Credit emitted pursuant to the Act of the 18th of March last, the value of the Sums due to be ascertained according to the current value of continental Bills of Credit compared with Specie at the Time the Money became due at the place where the Supplies were furnished, provided the same do not exceed the prices fixed for such Supplies by the Act of the 25th of February last, or a proportionate value for services done and articles furnished, not mentioned in the said Act. But if the nominal sum in continental Currency contracted for when reduced to Specie value as aforesaid, shall exceed the fixed price aforesaid, the Creditor shall be entitled to receive the amount of the supplies furnished or services done at the said fixed or proportionate prices in the New Bills aforesaid, or the nominal Sum contracted for in continental Bills of Credit, and no more at his Election.

That the Accounts being duly examined and adjusted by the Rule aforesaid by Commissioners that may be appointed agreeably to the Resolution of the 12th of June last to settle Accounts of Officers of the Staff Departments in the several States, or by the Officer who made the Contract or by whom the payment is to be made, the same shall be paid or a Certificate given for the Sum justly due, certifying that the same hath been duly examined and adjusted agreeably to the Directions aforesaid; and if paid in the new Bills, the Interest on the said Bills shall be computed to the date of such Certificates.

That all Debts due to the United States for Monies received for their Use or otherwise within any of these States shall be paid according to the just Value of the Money when it was received or became due, to be ascertained as aforesaid.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Council of Massachusetts to Pres. Reed, 1780.

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire.

State of Massa. Bay.

Council Chamber, Boston, Aug^st 26th, 1780.

The Council of the State of Massachusetts Bay would represent to your Excellency that the Inhabitants of the Town of Sherborn on the Island of Nantucket are in great want of Flour and Grain for their own Consumption, & would therefore recommend Tristram Coffin, Master of the Schooner Phœnix, (an Inhabitant of said Island,) for your Excellency's permission to purchase Flour and Grain to relieve the Necessities of said Inhabitants on the said Island of Nantucket.

True Copy.

Attest, JOHN AVERY, D. Sec'y.*

Lt. Abraham Smith to Council, 1780.

Carlisle, 25th August, 1780.

Sir,

I send you herein Inclosed the names and Rank of the field Officers of Cumberland County, with as many of the Company Officers as I have been able to get Returns of; I have had none from three Battalions that is over the north mountain. I have agreeable to your Excellency's Orders Sent off the Militia of this County to Philadelphia, I am unhappy to inform you that they have not turned out so well as I Could wish, I think there is about fifty wanting of the number called for, The alarming situation of the people over the noarth mountain made it very unadvisable to send any down from that quarter, I have therefore Order'd them for the defence of the frounteers, and all the three Classes from here down. I hope the number Sent down will be Excepted as Sufficent on Consideration of our frounteers Situation, I have proportioned the Officers to the Number of men, the Gentlemen seem desirous to have their Commissions before they go to Camp, I therefore hope their Commissions will be made out for them. I have sent the Volunteers raised in this side of the mountain down, them raised

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 525. Not granted.

over the mountain are on the frontiers of Northumberland County. There is great Complaints from numbers of the militia men of want of money to bear their Expences to Camp, I am Satisfied there is some of them ill of, I wou'd therefore flatter myself if there is any in the treasurey that a Small Quantity will be advanced when they go to Phila. I wou'd just beg leave to mention a matter to your Excellency that seem to give much uneasyness to the Inhabitants of this County, that is the lowering the Price of grain, part of the ablest of the people had before Sold so much of their wheat at ten Shillings ℔ Bushell as wou'd pay their publick tax, the others who had not wheat before harvest think it exceedingly hard that they have not the opportunity of paying there tax on the same footing with their neighbeurs they are now Inclin'd to Conclude that they must be allowed a Small price for their flower if the Carrige is taken from the Philadelphia price.

I have the honor to be your

Excellency's most Obedient Humble Servant,

AB^m. SMITH.

Directed,

Public Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the Supream Executive Council of the State of Penn^a., Ab^m. Smith.

fav^d by
Col^l. Mitchell.

Lt. Joseph Hart to V. P. Moore, 1780.

August ye 25th, 1780.

Sir,

It may be unnecessary now to tell you the Number of Men we have at Trenton, as perhaps you will have the account from the Adjutant Gen.: The Number of Privates (however) does not much exceed 200, but they are Increasing every Day. Our Men are told that the Militia of the City and County of Philad^a rec^d a Sum of Money previous to their Marching, and they are almost ready to mutiny because they had none; and we must give them a small supply as soon as possible; for this end the Bearer Mr Wm Scott, Paymaster, will wait on Council for their Order to draw Money. I am Sir

Yourn & the Councils

most Obdt. & very hmbe. Servt.,

JOSEPH HART, L. B. C.

Directed,

To William Moore Esqr., Vice president of the Supreme Executive Council for the State of Pensilvania.

Col. Wm. Scott to V. P. Moore, 1780.

York, Augt 26th, 1780.

Sir,

In a letter from Council of the 25th July last* I was ordered to furnish three hundred and fifty Men of the Militia of York County; for which end I was instructed to Call three Classes and if they did not furnish that number; to proceed to a fourth Class; on rec^t of which I immediately warned the three Classes as directed. I afterwards rec^d another letter of the 1st instant wherein the quota for our County was again mentioned; with orders for the Men to march of which I also gave notice but there is only one Company as yet got ready. It is thought by some gentle Men here that the whole of the Classes call^d Shou^d March or be fined, Others are of Opinion that the number mentioned by Council only shou^d go and as the differance of Sentiments seems to retard our Progress I^d Humbly beg the favour of Council, to instruct me in this Matter, as the number of Men in the three Classes are at least five times the number demanded of this County, in the meantime I will forward the men as they are made up and hold the remainder in readiness for farther Orders.

I am sir your Honour's

Obedient humble serv^t.,

W^m. SCOTT.

Directed,

To the Honourable William Moore Esquire, Vice President in Council, Philadelphia.

Col. Sam'l J. Atlee to V. P. Moore, 1780.

Lancaster, Aug^st 26th, 1780.

Sir,

I am this minute honored with your Letter by Black of the 24th, and am very happy it arrived when it did, as I had just wrote to Councill for orders respecting the militia of this County, the Letters alluded to in the one before me must have miscarried. I have given the orders for the militia to hold themselves in readiness—and likewise ordered that each man come provided with a Blankett, but arms I fear it will be impossible to provide, what can be procured shall.

I have inclosed the Return of the officers of the militia for Lancaster County, as far as they can be at present filled up, I must beg the Commissions may be immediately sent up—together with Blankets for those that are not in the return, to be fitted here as officers can be prevailed upon to accept.

* See page 444.

Sundry Recruits have offered since my arrival here, but as I was not enabled to pay their Bounty, they cannot be prevailed upon to proceed to Philad^a without it—they complain that they have sundry debts to pay, that their creditors will not permit their departure untill satisfaction is made them.

Councill knows my sentiments respecting the recruiting service.

I am Sir,

your Honours most ob^t

and very Hble Servt

SAM. J. ATLEE.

Directed,

Honble William Moore, Esqr., Vice President.

Gen. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

(Circular.)

Head Quarters, near the liberty Pole,
Bergen County, 27th August, 1780.

Sir,

The Honorable the Committee of co-operation having returned to Congress, I am under the disagreeable necessity of informing your Excellency, that the army is again reduced to an extremity of distress for want of Provision. The greater part of it had been without meat from the 21st to the 26th. To endeavour to obtain some relief, I moved down to this place with a view of stripping the lower parts of the Country of its Cattle, which, after a most rigorous exaction, is found to afford between two and three days supply only, and those consisting of milch cows and calves of one or two years old. When this scanty pittance is consumed, I know not what will be our next resource, as the Commissary can give me no certain information of more than 120 head of Cattle expected from Pennsylvania, and about 150 from Massachusetts. I mean in time to supply our immediate wants.

Military coercion is no longer of any avail, as nothing further can possibly be collected from the Country in which we are obliged to take a position, without depriving the Inhabitants of the last morsel. This mode of subsisting, supposing the desired end could be answered by it, besides being in the highest degree distressing to individuals, is attended with ruin to the morals and discipline of the army—during the few days which we have been obliged to send out small parties to procure Provisions for themselves, the most enormous excesses have been committed.

It has been no inconsiderable support of our cause, to have had it in our power to contrast the conduct of our army with that of the

Enemy, and to convince the Inhabitants that while their rights were wantonly violated by the British Troops, by ours they were respected. This distinction must unhappily now cease, and we must assume the odious character of the plunderers, instead of the protectors of the People, the direct consequence of which must be to alienate their minds from the army, and insensibly from the cause.

We have not yet been absolutely without flour, but we have *this* day but *one* days supply in Camp, and I am not certain that there is a single barrel between this and Trenton. I shall be obliged therefore to draw down one or two hundred barrels from a small magazine which I had endeavoured to establish at West Point, for the security of the Garrison in case of a sudden investiture.

From the above state of facts, it may be foreseen that this army cannot possibly remain much longer together, unless very vigorous and immediate measures are taken by the States to comply with the requisitions made upon them. The Commissary General has neither the means nor the power of procuring supplies. He is only to receive them from the several agents. Without a speedy change of circumstances, this dilemma must be involved; either the army must disband, or what is, if possible, worse, subsist upon the plunder of the People.

I would fain flatter myself that a knowledge of our situation will produce the desired relief—not a relief of a few days, as has generally heretofore been the case, but a supply equal to the establishment of magazines for the Winter. If these are not formed before the Roads are broken up by the Weather, we shall certainly experience the same difficulties and distresses the ensuing Winter which we did the last. Altho' the troops have, upon every occasion hitherto, borne their wants with unparalleled patience, it will be dangerous to trust too often to a repetition of the causes of discontent.

I have the honor to be
with great respect,
your Excellency's
most obet & hum. servant,
G° WASHINGTON.

Directed,
State of Pennsylvania.

General Lacey to V. P. Moore, 1780.

Camp, Trenton, Augt 28th, 1780.

Dear S^r,

I left Philad^a in a hurry on Command to Bucks County and had not time to stay and see any of my necessaries put up for Camp, this I trusted to Col. Mitchel and Maj^r Hanna, my Brigade Maj^r, my Waggon was not oppened nor any thing examined till I arrived here,

and found on opening and overhalling the stores that the upper part of the Markee was wanting, likewise the poles, the want of those necessary articles subjects me to great inconvenience, will therefore take the Liberty with you to beg you to use your Interest with Col. Mitchel to procure the af^d articles, for which I beg you to procure a conveyance to me as soon as possible, and you will oblige me very much indeed.

Our People are beginning to show the simptoms of some uneasiness —they begin to think of home, which is always prejudicial to the Contentment of the Militia. Their too long stay in one place never fails to produce these effects, we have in consequence thought of removing them a few miles to divert their minds from home, if possible. His Excellency and my self with our Aids, have been riding round the Camp this two Days in search of ground suitable for a new encampment, but find the Country exceeding dry and scarce of Water, hardly a spring to be found.

This morning we road towards Bordenton, near which place we fixed on a piece of ground to which we expect to move in a few Days.

We are all in tolerable health at present, and most anxiously wait the arrival of the second Devision of our Allies, when a wide field will be opened to display to the never fading Glory of American Arms, now obscured for want of opportunity, the present spirit of our Troops.

I am Dear Sir
with real respect, your
most ob. Servt,
JOHN LACEY.

P. S. Please to give my best respects to the Hon. members of Council, my old Colegues.

Directed,

To the Hon. William Moore, Vice President of Penn^a, Philadelphia.

☞ Capt. Wadkins.

Deposition of Henry O'Neill, 1780.

North'd Co. ss.

Personally apeared before me the subscriber one of Justices of the peace for the county aff^d Henry O'Neil and after being duly sworn as the Law directs deposeth that on the 24th, inst. being in company with Peter Simerman at Catawisse Mill and as they were ingaged in repairing the Mill pond heard two whistles as they suposed an the Charger of a Gun but took no notice but soon heard an Indian hallo and saw him wave his hand as though he wanted them this Dep^t asked the Indian what he wanted the Indian asked if Ellis Hughs

was there this Dep^t answered no he then asked if Job Hughs was there this Dep^t answered no he then asked if it was tories that lived at the Mill Peter Simerman answered not but that it was Yankies then the Indian answered aye—aye—twice and did not seem well pleased took up his Gun and went up the hill then this Dep^t returned & Simerman asked if they would load the Canoe O'Neil answered not he then asked this Dep^t if they would tell that they saw an Indian to which this Dep^t answered yes.

his
HENRY ⋈ O'NEIL,
mark.

Sworn & subscribed before me this 27th day of August A. Dom. 1780.

THO. HEWITT.

THOMAS HEWITT TO PRES. REED, 1780.

August 29, 1780.

S^r,

Inclosed you have the Coppy of Henry O'Neil's Deposition, taken Before me in the presence of a Number of the respectable Inhabitants of North^d County, which Evidently shews the Dismal situation of this County from the Number of Disaffected persons in it. The Deposition of Henry O'Neil, together with the former Conduct of a Number of the Inhabitants of Catawissa and the places adjacent, forms a Long Chain of Circumstances, that they held & always holds a Correspondence with the Enemy, who, from their situation, being surrounded with Mountains on the one side, and the North East Branch of Susquehanna on the other, Gives them an Opportunity of holding a treasonable Correspondence with the Enemy without Discovery; they have lived peaceably at home in the most Dangerous times, Negroes and other suspected Strangers being frequently seen among them. Every Incursion the Enemy has made into this County and all the Disaffected families in this fly there for protection, whilst the well-affected are oblidged to Evacuate the County, or shut themselves up in Garrison. By the Confession of Ellis Hughes, he went up to Wyoming with a flagg when the Enemy was in possession of that place; by the Confession of Casper Reaney, Duncan Beeth and Others, that they were sent to Niagara; by David Fowler and Others, the Inhabitants of Catawissa and Fishing Creek; The Indian that Came in a peaceable manner to that place Last Spring; together with many more Sircumstances which might be produced.

I therefore Humbly request the favour of you to Lay this acusation before Council, hoping the Honble Council will Grant such relief in the premises as they in their wisdom shall think proper.

Y^r most Ob^t Humble Ser^t,

THOMAS HEWITT.

Directed,—His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr.

Pres. of Congress to Council, 1780.

Circular.

Philadelphia, August 29, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency will receive enclosed two Acts of Congress of the 12. & 24. Instant, making farther Provisions for the Officers & Soldiers of the Continental Army, with recommendations to the several States; and extending the half Pay heretofore granted to Officers, to the Widows or Children as the case may be of such Officers as have died or may die in the service.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect.

Your Excelleney's most obedient servant

SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

His Excelly the President & Council of Pennsylvania.

Valentine Eckart to V. P. Moore, 1780.

Reading, August 30, 1780.

Sir,

By accounts received here on Monday last we are informed that one John Negman who lived at a saw mill on the Road from Reading to Shamokin about three miles above Conrad Minnicks and 33 from Reading, on Sunday last was with his three young children, barbarously murdered by the Indians, a Party of whom, five in number, had been seen on the same Road near Yarnal's a few days before.

The day after the above murder a House and Barn on little Schuylkill were burned by them but no persons killed.

These occurrences have alarmed the people so much in that neighbourhood that many have already left it and waggons are going up in numbers to fetch off their effects; so that unless some speedy assistance can be given them, the whole settlement over the mountain will be evacuated.

On this occasion I have been applied to for amunition some of which I gave them and Col. Lindemuth, I am told, has marched with a Party to their Relief; But as this may not be sufficient to quiet the apprehensions of the Inhabitants, I must beg the Orders of Council in what manner to proceed and would be glad to know by the Bearer (who is sent Express for the purpose) what measures are

intended to be pursued for the Protection of the inhabitants on the Frontier in this & and the neighbouring Counties.

I am, Sir, with great Respect,
Your very humble servant
VALENTINE ECKART.

P. S. If the militia of Lancaster are not yet all marched it might perhaps be thought best to send us some part for our defence until something more effectual can be fallen upon.

The Honble. Wm. Moore, Esq.

Col. John Piper to the Inhabitants of Quemahoning Township, 1780.

To the Inhabitants of Quemahoning Township, 1780.

Gentlemen,

I Received your Petition to me directed by the Hand of Mr. Black, I am fully sensible of your situation and the Difficulties you labour under by reason of the exorbitant Demands made upon you by the Sub-Lieutenants of this County for large sums of Money to Pay the Hire of two Men annexed to the Bedford Company of Pennsylvania Voluntiers. I look upon it as a grievance upon the said remaining Inhabitants of the Frontier Inhabitants of this County, and as such I have already remonstrated to Council, and likewise to Mr. Powel a Member of the House of Assembly for this County, I assure you Gentlemen the Proceedings of the Sub-Lieutenants of this County in Demanding such large Sums of Money from the Distressed Frontier Inhabitants, is Contrary to my Judgment, & apprehend contrary to the intention or meaning of the act, for I am fully of opinion the meaning of the act, was to call for two Men out of a Company, where there is a Company and not from the few remaining parts of Companies that are assembled in small Parties on our extended Frontiers who for considerable time past have been holding their weapons with the one Hand and Labouring with the other, & I am of opinion that if the measures that have been adopted by the Sub-Lieutenants of this County are persued to their ful extent, it will instead of Supporting the Frontiers, be a means of effectually breaking them up, neither do I see any method of redress but by Petitioning our House of Assembly, These Gentlemen are my sentiments, and I am sorry so far from having an Actual Hand in the present distressing measures, that I have never been so much as consulted upon the matter, I am sorry to tell you Gentlemen, that it is not in my Power, as I apprehend to give you relief in ye Difficulties.

I am Gentlemen, with respect
Y^e most Humble Sert.
JOHN PIPER.

Sept 1st, 1780,—A true Copy.
℣ James Martin S. Lift.

Lieut. Wm. Scott to V. P. Moore, 1780.

York, September 1st, 1780.

Sir,

I recd. your letter of the 14th, ult. by Captain Mackey and has since don every thing in my Power to make up the remainder of our Volunteers but sending home the Officers and putting the Men into the Standing armie, has so alarmd. the People that we Cannot easily engage annother man, and many of them who were engaged have Deserted. I have prevailed with Captain Armor to take the Charge of what we could get ready and send them with him, with a list of their names enclossed, and the remainder we'l endavour to send with the Militia.

I had Commissioned a Captain and an Ensign for the 2d Company who have left their accts. with me to be forwarded to Council; and are returned home much dissatisfied with the disappointment the Officers of the first Company woud. be glad to know who is to pay them their monthly wages and when they may expect to receive it.

In the return of Purchases sent off yesterday I have Omited near 100 Barrals of Flour which I had put in a former written return, on acct. of its not being Paid for.

I have sent the Blank Certificates which were not Issued for Cattle and Sheep and as soon as the Remainder of the Sheep are sold and the accompts can be adjusted will send a State of the whole. I have also sent the Arrangement of the Militia of our County in order to have the Commissions for the Officers who have been Elected.

I am Sir,

Your Honours Obedient,

Humble Servt.

WM. SCOTT.*

Directed,

To the Honourable William Moore Esqr Vice President in Council.

℘ Capt. Armor.

Capt. Dennis Leary to V. P. Moore, 1780.

Reading, Septr 1st, 1780.

I think it my Duty to inform you that On Sunday last I was alarmed with an account of an attack made by the Indians at a House about a mile from my Post on Schuylkill. I immediately marched thither with four Men and Buried the man of the House

* Lieutenant of York Co.

and two Children who lay dead, and a little Girl having been carried off by the Indians, The Day following I went in Pursuit of the Enemy with ten men and was the same Day joined by Capt. Balty and the next Day by Colonel Lintemuth with about 50 men between them, With these we have scoured the Woods 'till yesterday noon when we came down to Reading.

Since the first attack a House & Barn have been burned on little Schuylkill, & two Horses taken a little Boy Son of one Shurr is also missing since Tuesday last.

When we came down we left about sixty men at the Different Settlements for whose Subsistance we are accountable.

I must therefore beg the assistance of Council in forwarding such Supplies of men & provisions as will be necessary for defending the post where we are, at least, if not the rest of the Frontier.

There is still a matter to be mentioned which seems a little extraordinary. On Sunday a man and his wife came to join us at the post and the man pretending to be a Carpenter we received them, a few Days after it was discovered that his name was not John Hamilton (as he first called himself) but Niel Tye and his wife sent me a message desiring I would take Care of myself as he was determined to scalp me, On this I had them bro't to Reading where the man is now in Goal.

I am Sir, with great Respect,
your very humble Servt.

DENNIS LEARY.

Capt. of Marines.

Directed,

To the Honble. William Moore Esqr Vice president of Council of Penna. Philadelphia.

☞ Express.

James Searle to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Brest. 2^d Sept^r, 1780.

My Dear Sir,

This is one of several flying letters I address to you which I send to the different Sea ports of France, in hopes one at least may get to your hands & inform you of my safe arrival at this place yesterday after a tedious & very Hazardous passage of 43 days. I set off for Paris to-morrow morning from whence I shall have the honor of writing fully to your Excellency.

I have been received & treated with the utmost politeness & attention by all the great people of this place.

You will do me the favour to send immediately by Express, if

necessary, to acquaint my dear Mrs. Searle of my arrival, & of my being in the most perfect health & good Spirits.

I am with every

Sentiment of Respect & affection,

Y^r Excellency's most Obed^t

& most Humble Servant,

JAMES SEARLE.

Directed,

On public Service.—J. Searle.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, Philadelphia.

Received Nantes 10 October, 1780, and forwarded by Your Excellency's most Obed^t Servt,

JOSHUA JOHNSON.

Col. Saml. Miles to V. P. Moore, 1780.

Philad^a, Sepr 2^d, 1780.

Sir,

I shall feel a happiness in being able to comply with the desires of the Honble Council at any time, but it is my duty to acquaint them that it is the Oppinion of the Quarter Master General that I cannot, consistent with my duty, furnish expresses for the State. Tho' the Business concerned the Continent, he thinks, to prevent confusion in Acc^ts, it would be best for the State to employ the expresses & charge the expence.

I am with due respect,

Your Honor's most obed^t

& most Humble Servt,

SAML. MILES, D. Q. M.,

for Pennsylv^a.*

Directed,

The Hon'ble William Moore, Esqr, Vice President, Pres^t.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 498.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Circular.

Philadelphia, September 3, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 25 ulto., earnestly recommending to the several States to take the most speedy & effectual Means in their Power for drawing in their respective quotas of the Continental Bills of Credit, to be destroyed by Tax or exchanging for them new Bills emitted pursuant to the resolution of the 18th of March last, at a rate not less than forty for one, that the whole of the new Bills may be issued.

Also recommending to the several States to raise by Taxes, payable in the new Bills above mentioned, or Specie, their respective Quotas of three Million of Dollars, agreeable to the Apportionment of the 7th of October, 1779, and pay the same in to the Treasury of the United States as soon as possible, the Payment to be fully completed by the last Day of December next, each State to be allowed Interest from the Time it is paid; to be hereafter adjusted according to a resolution of the 6th of October, 1779.*

You will also observe by this Act Provision is made for Payment of the Public Debts due in any of the States, in the Departments of the late Quartermaster Greene & Commissary Wadsworth, as also the present Commissary General of Purchases.

And in Order to prevent the Possibility of a Depreciation in the new Bills, it is earnestly recommended to the several States not to issue Bills of Credit for a Currency on any account whatever, in such Manner as to have in Circulation a greater Amount than their respective Quotas of the new Bills.

And in Order that Justice be done to the Creditors of these United States, for Supplies furnished the Army or Transportation thereof, Provision is made by this Act that such Creditors be paid the just Value of their Debts, to be ascertained in the Manner expressed in the Act; and all Debts due to the United States are to be justly paid in like Manner.

I have the Honor to be
with the highest respect
your Excellency's
most obedient Servant,
SAM. HUNTINGTON,
President.

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

* See Vol. VII., p. 732, and Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 472.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Circular.

Philadelphia, September 8, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency* will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 25th ultimo. ascertaining the rank of the Governers or Presidents of the several States whenever they shall act in the Field together or in Conjunction with the Continental Army. The same rule has been heretofore adopted in particular Cases as just & necessary, & hath given Satisfaction. It is now deemed expedient to adopt the same as a general Rule, which it is supposed will meet with Approbation in the respective States.

I have the Honor to be with the highest respect

your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

SAM. HUNTINGTON,

President.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

Lt. Col. Robert Smith to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Chester County, September 4th, 1780.

Sir,

The particular Situation of This County, under the late calls of The Militia induces me to lay before Council the following state of Facts. and to request their advices and Instructions thereon.—

Our Justices at their Sessions in May last, Rated the average price of Common labour at twenty Dollars per Day as the Standard of Militia Fines; This I was Verbally informed of by the president of the Court; But no certificate under their Hands and seals was received. According to This Rate the Fines for nonattendance on days of Exercise the former part of the present year were laid; and four classes of the Militia being ordered into actual Service, were marched Before the August Sessions, under the same Circumstances. Upon the Militia's being Called out they expressed great Dissatisfaction at their Wages being lower than those in the City and other Counties; and the Court at their August Sessions, Rated Labour at Thirty Dollars per Day :—In the Interim Between the Marching

* See p. 519 and Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 471.

of the Militia and the sitting of the Court, some few fines were received at the former Rate, as money was much wanted for the purpose of advancing to Those who marched; and it is now Strongly Controverted whether we have a Right to Levy the advanced price of Labour upon delinquents, as the Militia were ordered out and the Fines incurred before the Sitting of the Court.—It is likewise Contended by some that as the Militia are discharged before the expiration of their Two months; The Fines now Collected should be in proportion to the time of Service given. I have taken the liberty to State these Circumstances and would Humbly request the advice and Instructions of The Honourable Council on the subject both with respect To the Fines upon Delinquents and the Wages of those who have marched upon the late call, in order that we may proceed in a regular and Uniform line of Conduct in this matter.

The paymaster of this County won'd be glad to receive Instructions with regard to the payment of the Militia now discharged. whether Seperate Payrolls of their Pay & Bounty according to law are now to be made out for the time of Service given, and paid off, or whether what they have received remain as advanced pay until Their Tour of Duty is Completed.—Any Instructions Sent to me on the Subject, shall be immediately Communicated to him.

I am Sir with the most Sincere Esteem

Your most Obedient Humble Servant,

ROBERT SMITH,
L. C. C.

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq. President.

Col. Danl. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Fort Pitt, Sept. 5, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Yesterday the Indians killed two men on Robeson's Run in what is called Yoghagania County, and fired at two Soldiers who were going to Wheeling in a Canoe, one of them is wounded but both have escaped.

By the late orders of the Honble Board of War to Mr. Charles Pettit, I find that the Troops here are to be supplied by the Commissioners of Penna & Virginia, on this side the mountains. There is but one appointed by the Honble Executive Council of Penna and none by the State of Virga. that I have heard of. The Commissioner of Westmoreland informs me that he is only authorised to purchase one hundred barrels of Flour and not any Meat.

The Troops have alternately been destitute of Bread & meat. They have hitherto been reconciled, but it is reasonable to suppose that they will complain, if more ample provision is not speedily made for them. At present I am not possessed of two Days allow-

ance and I have but a dull prospect as to further supplies. I have been compelled to hire a few Horses to send to the Mills below. For Mr. Steel has been weak enough to discharge a Brigade of Horses which were loaded with Flour for our consumption, after they had reached old Town.

I am informed that Col. Clark had destroyed two of the Shawnese Towns, killed six men and one woman & is returned to the Falls of Ohio.

Had I been furnished with Provisions, the savages had now felt a general panic, but I have nothing in my power.

I hope we are not to be in this situation much longer, as the time is arrived that winter stores should be purchased for our subsistance; and I sincerely wish your Excell^y may interest yourself in our favor, for unless something is speedily done, these posts which are of the utmost importance, must be evacuated, and the Country will of course be deserted or as some have hinted, join the Enemy.

With the most perfect respect I have the

Honor to be your Excellencies most Obed. Servt.

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

His Excell^y Jos. Reed Esq.

Gen. Arthur St. Clair to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp near the New Bridge, Septr 5th, 1780.

Sir,

Your favour of the 26th ult^o was delivered to me four or five Days ago but a Fever with which I was ill at that time prevented my Answering it sooner.

I entirely agree with you about Colonell Connor, and should not have forwarded a Recommendation for his successor had I not been taught to believe that there was no doubt of his unhappy Fate and it gives me Pleasure to hear that it is still doubtful as he was a Person esteemed by all his acquaintance and allowed to be a very deserving officer. Colonell Harmar is very far from pressing this Matter, neither, I am certain would he have made the Application at all had he not believed the Story of his Death.

Mr Lytle has been arrived some time and the Stores are pretty nearly distributed. I shall enclose an Account of the Distribution with the Time to which the Troops are supplyed which he has promised to furnish me with this Morning. The officers and soldiers are very sensible of the attention of the State to their Necessitys, and are grateful; nor do I see the least Reason to apprehend an Interruption of the Harmony that subsists betwixt the Civil and Military. If any attempts have been made to interupt it, they have certainly proved abortive and must have been very insignificant in themselves or they could not have escaped my

Notice altogether, as they have done: unless you refer to some Reports, that the Council would not suffer the officers to inlist the Volunteers. Such Reports were circulated but with no other Effect than to produce a fugitive Sentiment that in that Instance they were wrong.

I am sorry that the Remonstrance of the General officers should have given Umbrage either to the State or to any Individual in the Executive or Legislative; but more especially to you to whom they have so many obligations. I am sure (I can say for myself, and believe the same of the rest of the General officers,) nothing was farther from their Intention: It did not enter into their Heads that any Member of Congress could be ignorant of what any State had done in a Business that had been so much agitated, in that however they were wrong, because some of them might have recollected how extremely Ignorant they are sometimes of what they have themselves done in Congress. I am sensible that it would have been better to have signed it with some Qualification, but what the State had done was by no means forgot; I mentioned it particularly, and procured the Law for their inspection, and it was made the Ground Work of what was asked for the army at large, and from the late Practice of Congress referring every thing they wish to be done to the respective States, it was not expected their Requests would be complied with, if complied with at all, in any other way; and the Idea of perfect Unanimity was held up as necessary to give their application the more Weight. We must be insensible and ungrateful to a great Degree if we did not acknowledge the advantages we have experienced since the State took us more immediately under their Care, and I assure you we have no inclination to return to a total Dependance upon Congress—from the Dependance we have on the State we have felt no inconveniences and we doubt whether our being removed from that Dependance would render Us more effectual.

I hope the Cloathing you have sent for may arrive in safety to whatevers Purpose it may be applied whether for the Continent at large, or the Troops of the State in particular; however I trust you will not be in a hurry to transfer it to Congress, nor the Purchases that may be made to the Eastward; for, tho' they would take them very readily off your Hands, provided that you do not ask to be paid, I believe you will get at least as much Thanks from the officers & Soldiers who will certainly want them, In serious Earnest they are very sensible of this fresh Instance of attention to their Necessitys. I am very glad that you ordered the Boots back to Philadelphia, as they are intended for Part of the next distribution and a Regularity in the Issues, I have always thought with you a matter of Consequence indeed without it Troops never can be properly supplied, and consume much more than is necessary. No Deficiencies of Boots, that is of Boots to those whose Duty requires

them to be on Horseback, has been reported to me, but I shall make the Enquiry, and send the Return if I find there are any.

Colonell Johnston, Colonell Humpton and Colonell Harmar, are going to Town appointed by the field and other officers to wait on the Assembly on the Subject of making good the Depreciation, agreeable to a late Resolution of Congress, recommending that Business to the different States, I wish it may meet your Sentiments because you can give it great assistance, I think it a Matter both of Right and of Policy—They do not expect that the Difference is to be paid off immediately but they expect it will be settled, and some assurances given them of Payment in a short Space, to this they have a Right, but it is certainly good Policy to give the Soldiery an Interest in the Issue of the Contest which by making them public Creditors you do; and I believe it would be a means, if not of preventing it altegether, of rendering Desertion much less frequent than it has been. The Eastern States had done this previous to the Recommendation of Congress, and their Troops are now in Possession of Government Securities payable at four different Terms, and bearing Interest. I hope the middle States, and Pennsylvania in particular, which have always got the Start of their eastern Brethren in matters of Generosity, will not be behind Hand with them in Matters of Justice.

Enclosed is a Return of Capt. Van Hurs Corps which he presented to me a few Days ago with an application for a Proportion of the Stores; Although this Course appears to be within the Provision of the Law, as I had no Directions about them, and did not know if the Returns required had been made to Council, I declined ordering them to be supplied at this Time, but promised to forward his Return and take their Direction, Will you be pleased Sir to lay it before them, and let me be instructed against the Arrival of another Cargo. I believe this is the only Corps included in the Quota that has not partook.

The Ennemy seem to confine themselves intirely to the Defensive. We lately foraged the Country above Bergen in a very insulting manner, and with such a Disposition of our Troops, as if they had offensive Designs must have been a very great Temptation, tho' to be sure the Passage of the North River is not an easy operation, I wish their seeming listnessness may not proceed from too perfect a knowledge of our Situation. We *are starving*, and unless something very efficacious for the supply of the Army is done, very speedily, we must disband or turn free Booters, an evil of almost as much magnitude as the first. You have much Influence with Members of Congress, I intreat you to make them sensible of the Risque to which they are exposing their Country, and of the double risque to which they expose themselves for it begins to be a prevailing Sentiment both in the Army and in the Country that a Party among them have been bribed to draw Things into Confusion.

When the Resentments of a People are roused their Revenge does not always extend to the Guilty only.

I do not know how I have drawn this Letter into so unconscienable a Length, I beg Pardon for it and beg leave to subscribe myself, with perfect Esteem and Respect

Sir, your Excellency's
most obedient Servant,
A^r. S^t. CLAIR.

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

Genl. Wm. Irvine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp Hackinsack, Sepr 5th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Colonels Johnston Humpton & Harmar are gone to wait on the Council & assembly respecting the depritiation of the pay of the Troops, agreeable to a late resolution of Congress, I believe they carry with them Copies of plans adopted by some other States—Could there be any assurances given for the Bounty, almost all our Volunteers could be ingaged for the War. The Officers are afraid to promise least they should be disappointed—tho some have Ventured—If the fellows are not taken now, when their term of service is expired, not a man of them will be got.

I shall be glad of your instructions on this head, or at least your opinion how far the Officers may promise.

I have the honor to be
your Excellency's
most obedient Humble Servant,
WM. IRVINE.

Directed,
On Publick Service,
To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire.

Mons. Holker to Mons. Le Ch. de la Luzerne, 1780.

Philadelphie, le 6 7bre. 1780.

Monsieur!

J'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer ci-jointe la lettre que Mr. Wilson m'écrit au sujet des mats que je l'avais déterminé à faire exploiter au haut de la rivière du Skuylkill, c'est le seul endroit du continent où j'ai pu en faire couper dans les dimensions convenables aux vaisseaux du Roi, et ma dernière ressource: J'y comptais cependant puisque jamais les Indiens ne s'étaient approchés de cette partie de la Pensylvanie de plus de cinquante milles. Vous connaissés l'importance de cet objet, il intéresse si fortement le repos des Etats unis, que je ne

doute pas que vous ne fassiés les demarches que votre sagesse vous dictera pour faire seconder mes efforts et mes recherches dans cette partie du service de Sa Majesté.

Je suis avec respect,

Monsieur,

Votre très humble et très
obéissant serviteur
HOLKER.*

Cet objet est si pressant et il est si intéressant de prévenir les malheurs que de trop délais pourroit occasionner, que j'espère que Son Excellence voudra bien m'excuser si je prends la liberté de lui recommander cette affaire de la manière la plus forte.

(The following papers accompany the foregoing.)

JAMES WILSON TO MONS. HOLKER, 1780.

Sir,

I have this Day received a Letter from Captain Leary, the Superintendant of the Workmen who are employed in cutting Masts up Schuylkill. He informs me that a Body of Tories and Indians have lately made an Incursion into that Neighborhood, and have killed a Man and two Children within a Mile of the Place where he is stationed. He also mentions, that he has been frequently told that the Indians intended to take him and his Party. A Detachment of the Militia marched to that part of the Country. They have been kept to secure the Masts which have been cut for the use of the King's Navy. The Express, who came with Captain Leary's Letter tells me that a Number of very fine Masts are cut and ready to be hauled to the River. Many more may be procured, if Protection is afforded to the Workmen. It is easy for the Savages to render the Masts useless by cutting or notching them. The same Force that would protect the Workmen will also protect the Inhabitants of that Part of the Country. I know no other Place where Masts can be had without requiring larger Guards than will be necessary at the Place where Captain Leary is. It is of public consequence that the masts already cut should be secured, and that more should be obtained.

I have not the least Doubt but that the Minister Plenipotentiary of France will think it proper to apply, on this Occasion to Congress or to the Supreme Executive Council of this State for a Force sufficient to accomplish those valuable Purposes. I beg you will speedily make the necessary Representation to his Excellency on this Subject.

I have the honor to be with great Esteem Sir
your most obed^t h'ble Servt,
JAMES WILSON.

Philad^a, 4th Sept^r, 1780.

Directed,—To The Honorable John Holker, Esquire.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 488.

JAMES WILSON TO MONS. HOLKER, 1780.

Sir,

The Place where the Workmen are employed in cutting Masts is on Schuylkill near the Gap of the second Mountain, and about thirty five Miles above Reading in Berks County. It is, I believe, the most advantageous Pass for covering the frontiers of that Part of Pennsylvania. A guard of sixty or eighty Men, would I presume, be sufficient for the purpose.

I have the Honor to be Sir,

your very hble. Servt,

JAMES WILSON.

Philadª, 6th Sepr, 1780.

Directed,

To The Honourable John Holker, Esquire.

ADMIRALTY TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Admiralty Office, 7th Septemr, 1780.

Gentlemen:

The board of Admiralty some time in the spring of the present year, agreed with James Wilson Esqr., for Masts for the Navy of the United States, to be cut up the River Schuylkill, and consented that Captain Leary of the Marines should superintend the workmen who were to be employed in that business. On the 4th instant the board received a letter from Capt Leary dated Reading Sepr 1, 1780* informing them that he was intirely interrupted in the important business they were pleased to direct him to perform near the blue Mountains, by the inroads & depredations of the Savages in that part. That he had represented these matters to the Council of this State, and hoped that the board would use their interest with them as well that the defenceless Inhabitants of the Frontiers might be protected, as to secure those parties work under his direction in that part of the Country.

The Board are informed that Masts suitable not only for our Ships, but for those of our illustrious Ally may be cut in that quarter, that in fact a number of very fine Masts are cut, and ready to be hauled to the river, that many more may be procured if protection should be afforded to the workmen. The same force that would

* See page 531.

protect the workmen, would also protect the Inhabitants of that part of the Country, and we believe that there is no other place where Masts can be had without requiring larger guards than will be necessary at the place where Capt Leary is. A company of fifty or sixty might be sufficient for the purpose.

Sensible of the importance of procuring Masts for the purposes mentioned, we do not doubt but that you will furnish a force sufficient for the protection of the workmen employed in this necessary business.

We have the honor to be
with great respect
your obedt Humble Servants
FRA. LEWIS,
by order.

Directed,

To His Excellency the President & supream Executive Council.

M. Le Chevalier de la Luzerne to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Monsieur!

Il y a environ un mois qu'une compagnie à la tête de laquelle est Mr. Wilson, a pris des engagements avec Mr. Holker, pour fournir à la marine du Roi des matières. L'arrivée des forces maritimes de S. M. dans ces passages rend cette ressource bien plus pressante, mais malheureusement Messieurs les convoyés empêchent ce particulier de tenir ces engagements, permettés que je joigne mes demandes à celles du bureau d'amirauté pour vous supplier d'accorder une garde de milice pour protéger les travailleurs.

Cette demande est cependant absolument subordonnée aux circonstances, vous êtes plus à portée que personne de juger si l'état peut l'accorder sans inconvénient, je m'en remets absolument à ce qu'il vous plaira d'en décider, connaissant trop votre patriotisme pour douter du succès, si la chose est possible.

Je saisis avec empressement cette occasion de vous renouveller les sentiments d'attachement et de respect avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être,

Monsieur,
Votre très humble et très
obéissant serviteur
LE CH. DE LA LUZERNE.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 488.

DAVID JACKSON TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Phila. Sept. 7th, 1780.

Sir,

Application is made to me for payment by sundry persons who have had their waggons out in the service of the militia on the late tour of duty, at the time their teams were hired, there was no express terms agreed on, only in general, that they were to receive the Continental or State allowance of so much specie ℔ day or the exchange the owners of the teams give me to understand they expect to have the exchange fixed at the present difference between hard & continental money, which is fluctuating between 70 & 75 for one. As I believe this is not the mode pursued either by the Continent or state in fixing the exchange, I shall be much obliged to the Honble Council for their direction on this occasion by which I shall implicitly govern myself in negociating the business.

I am with much respect,

Your Excellencys most Obd't Hble servt.

DA. JACKSON, Q. M. G. M. P.

PRES. REED TO COL. JACOB MORGAN, 1780.

Sir,

The following Answers have been made to the Queries as offered by you, viz.

First, Who is to pay the expenses of the teams called out by order of Council?

Answer, The State Quarter Master should settle the Acct & if he has not money to pay it he should procure an order which the state will honour by this means it will go into Continental Acc. as it ought to do.

2d. Question, Are they to be continued longer in Pay than the time they are actually employed?

Answer, They are not.

3d. Question. What is to be the Pay of the Chief Waggon Master of the County & his district Waggon Masters who assist in getting them out?

Answer, County Waggon Mrs to have 20s. ℔ day State money or specie Assist. Waggon Mr 15 ℔ day like money.

4. What is to be the pay of the Conductors who go with the Waggons?

Answer. They receive Pay as Assistant Waggon Masters.

5. What is to be the pay of the team & driver if paid in Continental & at what Exchange.

Answ. The Pay is fixed at 30s. ℔ day specie exchange at 40 for one, or what is the same, they 20s. ℔ day exchange at 60 for one.

I am Sir, Your Obed. Hble Ser.

Indorsed, JOS. REED.

Septr 7th, 1780. To Colonel Jacob Morgan Senr Lt. of B. Co'y.

MONS. HOLKER TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Philad^a, September 10th, 1780.

Sir,

I was duly honored by your letter of ye 5th & having learned since then from your Excellency that the complaints made respecting the mode of importing & exporting as practised by French vessels, were principally confined to the Kings store ships at present in the harbour. I have examined into this matter & find that there has been some error or unwillfull obmission from a want of a proper understanding. I cannot perceive any reason why french ships in general should not conforme invariably in this case, to the laws, Customs, & usages of the port, & I have constantly instructed all French Captains to this purpose. I therefore can have no observation to make with respect to the regulation wich your Excellency may deem proper to propose to the assembly for the general will fare or tending to establish the dignity of the states as I shall in all cases religiously abide by its decrees.

I have informed the Commanders of her Majesty's store ships in this harbour by my letter of the 8th of the obligations they are under of making an exact return of their Cargo's to the naval officer of the port; I cannot imagine they will make difficulty to comply therewith, & I write this day to doctor Phile in order to let him know the steps I have taken on this occasion.

I do not suppose that your Excellency wishes that an exact return should be made to the naval office of the provisions laden on board the ships Interessant & Marie Francoise; I have directed Mr Turnbull my agent in this city to declare to the state officer they are laden or lading with provisions belonging to the royale Marine for her Majesty's fleet commanded by Monsieur Le Chev. de'Ternay, now at Rhode Island, were they are to proceed by the first safe oportunity, but least any objection may be made as to this point, I have the honor of inclosing to your Excellency, an exact return of the articles shipped on board the Interessant & what now exists on the Marie Francoise the cargo of which is not yet compleated. I hope this will remove all species of uneasiness, will give satisfaction & convince your Excellency & Council, that I sincearly mean on all occasions to do what is proper.

I remain with due respect & esteem,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant.

HOLKER.

Copies of Letters from M. Holker, 1780.

Extrait du Copie des Lettres de Mr. Holker, Consul Gal. de France.

A Mr. Etheart Capne. Comdt. la flute du Roi L'Intéressant. } Philadelphie le 8 7bre. 1780.

J'ai l'honneur de vous prévenir, Monsieur, que je viens de prier les capitaines des flutes du Roi de vouloir me procurer l'état du chargement qu'ils avoient à bord tant au compte du Roi qu'à fret pour les particuliers lors de leur arrivée en ce port, afin de servir à suppléer à la déclaration qu'ils auroient dû faire en arrivant au bureau de l'amirauté de cette ville. Cet état m'étant demandé par Mr. le Président du Conseil de l'Etat de Pensylvanie et désirant le lui envoyer, je vous prie, Monsieur, de vouloir bien ordonner à MM. Revol et Guyho de me fournir cette pièce le plutôt possible; la flute L'Intéressant se trouvant dans le cas des deux autres, je vous serai obligé de m'adresser également l'état détaillé de sa cargaison telle qu'elle se comportoit à votre arrivée.

J'ai l'honneur etc.

—

Aux Capnes. Revol et Guyho, Comdt. La Marie Française et Le Liverpool. } 8 7bre. 1780.

Tout navire françois arrivant dans ce port, Messieurs, devant fournir la déclaration de son chargement au bureau de l'amirauté du pays, et l'état étant informé que vous n'en avés fait aucune à votre arrivée, le Président vient de m'en écrire et me prier de lui procurer la facture signée de vous des marchandises qui composoient votre cargaison, tant au compte du Roi qu'à fret pour les particuliers; cette pièce étant attendu, je vous serai obligé de me l'envoyer le plutôt possible.

J'ai etc.

—

A Mr. Etheart.

9 7bre. 1780.

Comme je ne puis, Monsieur, accéder à plusieurs observations que vous me faites dans votre réponse de ce jour à ma lettre d'hier, comme je vous ai prévenu qu'il faudra faire la déclaration des marchandises chargées à votre bord, et qu'en vous la demandant j'ai voulu vous en éviter l'embarras en la faisant faire moi-même, je vous réitère maintenant que cette déclaration est ordonnée par les loix de Pensylvanie; je dois aussi vous ajouter nón obstant l'observation que je vous ai faite dans l'origine que l'on pourroit peut-être vous dis-

penser de cette formalité. Aujourd'hui que l'officier de l'état et le gouvernement l'exigent, je pense que vous devéz vous y conformer. Je vais les prévenir que je vous en aye instruit, que je vous ai mandé que je croyois que cette formalité ne devoit souffrir aucune difficulté de votre part, vû qu'il ne pourroit s'en suivre aucun inconvénient pour les intérêts du Roi. Après cela vous saurez mieux que moi ce que vous aurez à faire, ainsi je termine en vous renouvellant l'assurance des sentimens avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être etc.

---

au Docteur Phile. 10 7bre. 1780.

Sir,

In Consequence of a Letter Received from the President of the state, I have Informed the Capns of the King's store ships in this harbour, that they are under the obligation by the Laws of Pensylvania to make an Exact Return in your Office of the respective Cargos of their ships which have been unladen in this Port, if this Formality was not Complied with, it must have arisen from some misunderstanding in this matter, as I cannot Discover any reason why the Capn of french Ships, on their arrival here should not make proper entries at your Office.

I am &c,

A Mr. Revol, Capne. Comdt. La Marie Française. } 11 7bre. 1780.

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire ce jour en réponse à la mienne du 8 courant. Il est bien vray qu'il n'y a point de votre faute si vous ne vous êtes pas présenté à l'amirauté lors de votre arrivée pour y déclarer votre chargement. Je pensois alors qu'il seroit peut être possible de vous exempter de cette formalité; mais aujourd'hui qu'elle est demandée, je crois de votre devoir de la fournir.

J'ai l'honneur etc.

Pres. Reed to Capt. Ethcart, 1780.

In Council, Philada, September 11th, 1780.

Sir,

In answer to your Favour received yesterday, I beg Leave to acquaint you that no Person can have a higher respect for the Commission of his most Christian Majesty than the President & Council of Pennsylvania, nor should we desire any Acknowledgment to this State inconsistent with the Duty you owe to her Flag—But this State has also its Rights & its Laws which all Persons residing within its Protection are bound to respect in their several Capacities & Stations. One of these Laws requires that all Merchandize im-

ported into this State should be reported at the Naval Office under certain Penalties. It is not usual for Naval Officers bearing a Commission to receive Goods into their Ships on Freight, but when they do they are certainly to that Intent & for that Purpose to be considered as Merchant Vessels, & as such to make the proper Report. A contrary Practice would not only be derogatory to the Honour & Interests of the State but be attended with many bad Consequences to its Commerce.

As I presume the present Omission has been accidental, I cannot impute Blame to any Person, & doubt not on a due Consideration you will comply with the Laws of the State as far as present Circumstances will admit.

I am Sir

your most obed.

& very Hbbl. Serv.

Directed,

To Monsr Ethcart, Captain of the Ship L'Interessant, of his most Christian Majesty.

Petition of Andrew Long, 1780.

To The honourable the Representatives of the free-men of the Commonwealth of Pensy in General Assembly, met,

The Petition of Andrew Long, humbly sheweth,

That your petitioner, in Virtue of an Act of your honorable house passed the Ninth day of October last, had the honour of being appointed a Commissioner of the County of Bucks for purchasing Wheat &c.—That having executed his orders he presumes to say, with diligence & fidelity, he waited on the Auditors of public accounts and had the Mortification to find the allowance made for his services greatly inadequate to his trouble and expence. He would not be thought to reflect on the Gentlemen Auditors whose œconomy & attention to the interest of the State "demand applause." But he conceives with submission, that in his Case they have been too parsimonious—For to say Nothing of my Expences while prosecuting a Settlement, which were very considerable, the offered allowance would not equal my travelling expences while executing the Commission—what is more tis not half the sum I am entitled to by law. By comparing the Law under which I acted with the Papers that accompany this Petition, the Hble House may perceive, I purchased 214 Barrels of Flour for which the *Act* says I shall "receive four Dollars ℔ Barrel," no part of which is allowed in the settlement.

Accordingly, as I had rather *give* my Services to the Publick than accept as Compensation what is *next to Nothing*, I have reimbursed the whole of the public Money remaining in my hand and now cast

myself on the candor & Justice of the House, praying they will take the premises into Consideration, & grant such relief as they in their wisdom Judge proper and your petitioner as in duty bound shall ever pray, &c.

ANDREW LONG

Bucks Co.,
Septr 12th, 1780.
Indorsed—Petition of Andrew Long, To The Hble Assembly.

BOARD OF WAR TO PRES. REED.

War Office, Sep. 12th, 1778.*

Sir,

The Board have been duly honoured with your Letter of yesterday on the Subject of calling out the Militia of this State in the Frontiers to Supply the Places of those whose Times are now about expiring. It was not from an Inattention to the Business or a Want of Inclination to succour the Inhabitants that Council have not been answered in their Enquiries on this Head. But the Board wanted Information as to the Necessity of a farther Draft of the Numbers requisite at the several Posts. They do not conceive in this advanced Season that great Numbers will be required as the Indians appear but in Small Parties & at the Fall of the Leaf, generally retire to their Hunting Grounds. The Authority given this Board too by Congress was not to form a permanent Plan of Defence for the Frontiers of this State but to co-operate with Council in repelling the Invasion which then threatened it which was a military Movement affecting intimately the general Cause & was part of the Enemy's general Plan being intended as a Diversion in their Favour on a supposition that their grand army would operate in this State. In this Light it was a Continental Object, & as such taken up by Congress—but at this Time when the Enemy are withdrawn as well with their principal Force as the auxiliary one which invaded the Frontiers, the Board are not clear that they can consistent with the Authority given them continue the Militia at the general Expence without consulting Congress. Nevertheless they beg the Favour of Council to give them every necessary Information as well as to the Expediency of continuing the Militia—the Numbers required & the Posts where to be stationed, & on Receipt the Board will immediately take every justifiable Measure.

I have the Honour to be
with great Respect
your very obed. Servt
RICHARD PETERS,
By Order.

General Hand just informs the Board that more Mischief was

* This letter is out of its place, which is p. 746, Vol. VI.

done by the Indians last Year in the Months of September & October than at any other Period—this seems to prove the Necessity of being prepared at this Time for the like Conduct in the Savages unless the Western Expedition shall oblige them to withdraw. Enclosed is the authority the Board received from Congress on which they have proceeded in this Business.

Directed,

On public Service.

The Honble George Bryan, Esqr., Vice President.

War Office.

"Letter from John Harris to Charles Thompson.

Read in Congress, July 14, 1778.

Referred to the board of war, who are directed in conjunction with the supreme executive council of Pensylvania, to take the most speedy and practical measures for repelling *the present irruption* of the Indians, and for protecting the continental magazine at Carlisle."

R. PETERS.*

(Copy.)

The above reference was not communicated to the Supreme Executive council of Pennsylvania until the 12th day of September, 1778.

T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Mons. Holker to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Mr Holker Presents his Respectful Compliments to the President of the State, & Requests as a particular favor, to be informed whether his Excellency & Council have been pleased to adopt any measures Respecting the Masts† for the Royal Navy, now Cut & Cutting at or Near the head of the Schuylkill.

Philadelphia, ye 12th Septr, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of ye State.

* See Vol. VI., pp. 574, 689, &c.

† See pages 540, 543.

JOHN VANKEMP TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Lower Smithfield, 13th April, 1780.*

Honoured Sr:

After my Last to you, I Have the Disagreeable News to inform you, that On the Eleventh Instant Emanuel Gonsaile Was Surprised By four Indians at his House; took Himself & a Serving man Prisoner, Plundered His House & Went off; the rest of His Family then Present being Women & Children, Not Molested. A party of Neighbours Emediately Collected & marched In pursuit of them, Not yet returned.

I am, Sr, In Haste,
Your Hum. Servt,
JOHN VANKEMP.

P. S.—Said Gonsaile Lived On the Banks Dilaware, about 9 miles above my house.

Directed,

To His Exellency Joseph Reed, Presidant of the Supreme Executive Councill, In Philadelphia.

℣ favour of Mr Isaac Munture.

GODFREY LANCTOT TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Sir,

I have received the Letter that you did me The Honour to Write, by Mr Deplanteur. I am sorry to hear the scarcity of Provisions with you. I hope that my wishes may be accomplished, that at present you may have sufficient to carry on an Expedition, which will be the only method to stop the Nations, if they have not Faith. I loose intirely their Confidence. I have already lost a party; (here is something particular) they were twelve Days coming from Cochoquin, and the Moravians went to meet Mr Deplanteur that was sick; a party paid by the English have stopt me, and I dare not follow them; a great Quantity of the party were in search of me, and would have taken me to Detroit. I hid myself till the party had seperated.

I understand the English is a going to send one Hundred men to the Shawnese, to build a Fort; they also say, that a party of a thousand men is coming to attack Fort Mcintosh. I Imagine they will come with the Savages.

I have the Honor to be, with the most Respectfull attachment,
Sir, Your most Humble and Obedient Servt,
GODFREY LANCTOT.*

13th Sepr, 1780.

I have sent some Belts to the Shawnese & Mingoes, & they would not make Peace.

Indorsed,—Sept. 13, 1780.

* See page 184.

Pres. Reed to Mr. Holker, 1780.

In Council
Philad^a. September 13th, 1780.

Sir,

I duly laid the Representation respecting the Masts* with the other Papers accompanying it before the Supreme Executive Council. As we are quite unacquainted with the subject of the Circumstances of the Place & Country & the members of the Assembly for the County of Berks are now in Town we deemed it necessary to secure such information from them as their Situation would enable them to give and consult with them upon the most effectual & proper measures. As soon as we have had a conference with them, I will do myself the honor of communicating the Result.

And am Sir, with due consideration
Your Obed. & Very
Hhbl. Servt.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1780.

Gentlemen,

I return you the enclosed Papers from Col. Brodhead with the thanks of the Council for the Perusal of them.

Since I had the Honour of writing you on the 2nd August† we have had a Letter from Mr. Lyon the Commissioner of Purchases of Cumberland who gives us assurances of his utmost industry to send a supply from that Quarter to Fort Pitt. By the arrangement made by the Commander in Chief it would appear that there was a Dependance for Flesh upon some other State as the following is the supply demanded for Fort Pitt.

2,400 barrels of flour 7000 Gallons of Rum one hundred and fifty Tons of hay and seven thousand five hundred bushels of Corn.

We have been unfortunate with Respect to Westmoreland in which the County Fort Pitt now lays agreeable to the new Line. The Commissioners we appointed declined acting but gave us no information thereof till lately when another was appointed who is instructed and we hope will give that Post all the Assistance in his power.

Finding the superintendance of those Specific Supplies engrossed our whole Time to the great Prejudice of other publick Business we appointed Col. Jacob Morgan to that Office who will on all occasions give your Hon. Board all the information and assistance in his Power. We feel very sensibly and much regret the many difficulties and disappointments which occur in this Business and which we fear will multiply if hard money is put into the country to make

* See page 550. † See page 478.

Purchases on any publick account. Such is the thirst and Eagerness to procure it, that all other Purchases seem immediately to stagnate.

A Committee of Assembly have this Day been in Conference with the Council on a memorial from the Officer Prisoners on Long Island representing very great Indigence Distress and Difficulties. The Conference was adjourned till tomorrow morning in the mean time I must beg the Favor of your Board to inform me whether there is any probability of a speedy Exchange of Prisoners or that any competent Continental Support will be afforded them in a short time.

I am with much Respect and Regard Gent.

Your most Obed. and Very Hhbl. Servt.

The Hon. the Board of War.

Indorsed 13th,

Navy Board to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Navy board, mid^e dist.

Philadelphia, Septr 14th, 1780.

Sir,

The United States ship Saratoga requires an addition to the quantity of Iron ballast now on board, and as there is none of that article in the continental naval store we are constrained to apply for a return of the quantity immediately wanting, in part of twenty tons lent by this board, at the request of the Council, to the ship general Green whilst in the service of the state. Mr Henry informs us you have a quanty of pig Iron on board the gallies, and as this will answer the purpose we want it for much better than broken cannon, for reasons suggested yesterday, we request your Excellency and Council will favor us with an order for eight tons.

We are your

very humble servants,

JOHN WHARTON,
JAMES READ,
WILLIAM WINDER.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, president of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 482.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, Septr 14, 1780.

Sir,

The Board have been honoured with your Excellency's Letter of yesterday.* We are very happy to hear that Mr. Lyon is using his Endeavours to send a Supply to the distress'd Garrison at Fort Pitt, which, from every account we receive must be in a very deplorable Situation. We are convinced of the Inclinations of the Honble. Council to do every thing in their Power to relieve the Distress of the Troops. We regret with an equal Sensibility every Embarrassment thrown in the Way of making Provision for the Army, but have no direction as to the purchases in Specie mention'd in your Excellency's Letter. By an account we have lately received from the Commander in Chief, we perceive that Pennsilvania is called on "for 166,835 Pounds of Beef, 5,000 Barrells of Flour, "225 Hhds. of Rum, 9,142 Bushells of Grain ℔ Month, 30,000lbs. "of Bacon, 2,500 Horses & 250 Waggons for the Campaign.—The "Flour & Beef to be transported & delivered where the Commiss^r "Genl shall direct; the Bacon to be divided into three equal Par-"cells Monthly to the last of September, to be transported & deli-"vered as aforesaid.—The Grain to be delivered where the Q. M. G. "shall direct."—In a former Letter we received from your Excellency† it appeared that the Honble. Council were of Opinion that the Quantities of Articles called for from the State of Pennsilvania were more than could be furnished, & desiring that, as the additional Article of Beef was called for, some Deduction should be made in other Articles. The Board not being intrusted by Congress with the matter had not Authority to make the Deduction, & therefore could take no order in the Business. Your Excellency's Letter on this Subject has since been referred to us (being sent by us to Congress) to make a Report; but not being furnished with the Proceedings of the Committee at Camp so as to be made sufficiently acquainted with their Views & general Principles, we find ourselves embarrassed in forming any decisive Opinion. But as Part of this Beef and Bacon seems to have been designed for Fort Pitt, from the Nature of the Case, we submit to your Excellency & the Honble. Council whether, let the final Adjustment be what it may, it would not be best under the present Circumstances to order a Quantity of Beef & Bacon to Fort Pitt to relieve the immediate Distress of the Garrison.

We have the honour to enclose a Copy of the Resolve of Congress with respect to the Supply of the Prisoners. In Consequence of this Act we understand Bills have been for some time past put into the Hands of the Loan Officer in this State to be disposed of for

* See page 552. † See pp. 432, 498.

Specie; but no Money has yet been produced from these Bills, & therefore the Board have it not in their Power to give the least Relief to the Prisoners whose Sufferings & Necessities are very great. Had we been enabled so to do, our Intention was to pay up the Boarding of the Officers at two Dollars Specie ℔ Week, & to furnish every Officer with 20 Guineas—& if we received only so much Money as to comply with this Plan partially our advances would be probably in proportion to the above Idea. We have no official Notice of any Exchange or any Probability of its being agreed on. We have heard from some Officers who came out on Parole that a Meeting was talked of between Generals Lincoln & Philips on the Subject; but when that is to happen, or whether an Exchange will probably be produced we cannot even form a Conjecture.

We have the Honor to be
with the greatest Respect & Esteem
Your very obedt Servants,

RICHARD PETERS.

By Order.

Directed,
His Excellency President Reed.

In Congress, August 27, 1780.

Resolved,

That the Board of Treasury be and are hereby empowered to direct Thomas Smith, Commissioner of the Continental loan Office for the State of Pennsylvania, to sell, under their direction, for Specie, the Bills ordered to be drawn on the Honble. J. Jay, which were reserved for the Prisoners of War of the United States, amounting to Seventy-one thousand three hundred and fifty dollars Specie. That one half of the Specie aforesaid be applied under the direction of the Board of War for the purpose of supplying the Prisoners of War in the States of South Carolina and Georgia.

That the other half of the Specie aforesaid be forwarded under the direction of the Board of War to the Commissary of Prisoners in the middle department for the Supply of the Prisoners at New York.

That the Board of Treasury be and hereby are empowered to prepare Bills of Exchange to be drawn on the Honble. Benjamin Franklin, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Versailles, at ninety days Sight to the amount of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars Specie, the amount of the Estimate from the Board of War; so much thereof as will compleat the Estimate of the Board of War to be sold for Specie and forwarded to the Commissaries of Prisoners in the middle and Southern Departments under the same regu-

lations and for the same purposes as aforesaid, and the residue of the 150,000 dollars to replace the 71,340 dollars reserved as aforesaid for the special direction of Congress.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Copy.

Resolutions of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, Septr 15th, 1780.

Congress took into consideration the report of the Com^ee on the Letter of the 20th Augt and subsequent letters from Genl Washington, Whereupon

Resolved,

That for the supply of the army the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut be called upon to furnish weekly one thousand head of Cattle in the following proportion to wit:

New Hampshire,	76
Massachusetts Bay,	385
Connecticut,	539
	——1000

Ordered, That copies of the above resolution be forwarded by express to the said States respectively, and that the President in his letter urge the necessity of an immediate & full compliance therewith, & the fatal consequences which must fall upon the army in case of failure in either.

Resolved,

That the States of New Jersey, Pensylvania & Delaware be requested, with all possible dispatch, to furnish for an immediate supply to the army the following number of Cattle, viz.:

New Jersey,	275
Pensylvania,	1251
Delaware,	530
	——2056

That for defraying the expence of forwarding the said cattle to the army from the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut, (for a weekly supply,) warrants be drawn monthly upon the loan offices of the said States in favor of the Commissary general, until the further order of Congress, in money of the new emissions, viz.:

On the loan officer of the State of New Hampshire for 1,418⅔ doll^rs
Massachusetts Bay, 7,186⅔ do.
Connecticut, 5,080⅔ do.

And for defraying the expence of forwarding for an immediate supply the cattle from New Jersey, Pensylvania & Delaware, that warrants be drawn upon the loan offices of the said States in favour of the Commissary general for the following sums in money of the new emission, viz. :

On the loan Officer of the said State of New Jersey for 550 dollars.
Pensylvania, 2919
Delaware, 1236

And that the Commissary genl. be authorised in case any of the said States have not received their money of the new emission to apply to the executive of the said States who are requested to advance him upon the said warrants an equivalent in other money.

Extract from the minutes,
CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

Henry Wynkoop to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Northampton Buck County 15th Septr 1780.

Sir,

Capt. McCalla Commissary of purchases for this County communicated to the justices, at the late Quarter sessions, Your Letter to him relating to the supplies of wheat and flour from this County and expressing your Excellency's expectation of assistance from the justices in procuring them, Mr. McCall also requested the justices to quota the quantity upon the respective Townships, I am directed to acquaint your Excellency that the Credit of our State money & of Certifficates is become so bad that no one will willingly part with his property for either, so that it is become absolutely necessary if those articles must be had from this County, to use compulsive means to obtain them; those the justices would gladly avoid as far as possible, as the Assembly is now sitting, who, they doubt not, will use their utmost efforts towards restoring public credit. The justices have waived for the present, their assistance to M^r M'Calla, in hopes that something may be done by the Legislature more effectual towards answering those publick Exigencys, than any thing in the power of the Justices.

Should your Excellency conceive the public Necessitys to be such as can not possibly admit of any delay in this County, Your Excellency will be pleased to communicate the same by Letter to me, by my Cousin, whom I have requested to wait upon your Excellency with this.

I am your Excellency's
very Humble Servt,
HENRY WYNKOOP.†

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq. &c. in Philadelphia.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 484.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 490.

Col. Fred. Watts to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

I beg leave to lay before your Excellency and Council the state of the frontiers of Northumberland, and Cumberland Counties. When you pleased to order three Classes, from the three Batt^ns on the North Side of the Mountain in Cumberland County, to the Frontiers, we saw the Necessity of your Excellencies Orders to be put in Immediate Execution, our Brethren being a murdering and a Carrying into Captivity by the Savages, but to our mortification when the men were ready to march, there was no Ammunition, upon which I went to Carlisle and applied to the Continental Stores, but could get none from them without an Order from the Board of War, at the Same time leting me know that there was not a bit of Lead in their possession, a number of the Inhabitants of Northumberland County being about to Evacuate their County if Immediate relief was not sent them, I purchased at private Sale from Stores a Small quantity of Lead, only sufficient to serve the marching party of one Batt^n there being no more to be had; the other Two Batt^ns were countermanded, and I fear the consequence will be dreadful, as the marching party has such an extent of frontier to Guard; I expected that Col. Smith Lieut. of Cumbd. County would have been here before now, to apply upon this Extraordinary occation, Something Surely must have happened him or he would.

Therefore I hope your Excellency and Council will take the premises into your consideration and direct some method whereby those distressed Inhabitants may have the means of defence put in their hand.

I am Sir,
with the utmost respect,
and Esteem your Excellencies,
most Obedient Humble Servant,
FREDK. WATTS,

S. Lieu^t Cumbd. County Philada. Septr. 16th, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire President of Council.

Col. Dan. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Fort Pitt, Sept. 16th 1780.

Dear Sir,

Since my last the whole of this Garrison drew out to my quarters, the Soldiers were led by Sergeants, upon being asked the cause of such an assembly, the Sergeants answered, that they came to represent to me that they had been five Days without Bread, They

behaved well, and upon being told that their officers were equal sufferers, and that every possible exertion was making to supply their wants, they immediately returned to their quarters. We have since obtained some Bread & Beef, but it is with much difficulty we can procure daily supplies.

I should be glad to know if any person is appointed to supply us with Beef, Liquor, & Salt, and who it is, that is to be applied to.

Intelligence is just received of Seven persons being killed, & taken on ten mile Creek, by the Savages, but under our present circumstances, I have not provisions to furnish a party for pursuit.

I have inclosed Mr. Coopers recruiting acc. and beg you will be pleased to order foreward the money due on that, & late Cap. Swearingen's. Mr. Boreman will be the bearer of this Letter and he is a proper person to receive it.

If a little hard money could be sent to this side Hills for the recruiting service, I flatter myself that a number of good men might be raised for my Regt. But paper money is too plenty amongst the lower class of people, to allure them. If this cannot be done, I trust my Regt. will have an equal number of those recruited below, which might be sent up, under Captn Jno. Finley of my Regt, and serve to guard up the Stores.

I have often applyed to the Honble. Board of War for some paint but, have received none, it is essentially necessary for my parties, and I shall be much obliged if your Excellency will be pleased to order some—to be forwarded.

If the Friendship of the Delaware Indians is thought to be valuable, it is time that goods should be forwarded to clothe them, before winter, otherwise they will be compelled to go where they can be supplied.

With the Sincerest respect
& esteem I have the Honor to be,
your Excellencyes most obedt Servt.

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

His Excelly. Jos. Reed Esqr.

Sepr. 17th.

P. S. I have this moment received a letter from Major Lanctot, It is written in French and I have inclosed a Copy of the translation, now had I but Men & provisions, I might do something to gain a Laurel, but in my present circumstances, it is probable I may loose my Reputation, for what shall not be a fault in me.

D. B.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 498.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, September 16, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 15. Instant, requesting the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts & Connecticut to furnish for the Army one thousand Head of Cattle weekly, which will supply the Army from the time they begin to arrive, through the Campaign.

But in the mean Time to supply the immediate wants of the Army, Congress find themselves compelled to request the State of Pennsylvania to furnish with all possible Despatch twelve hundred & fifty one Beeves.

Should the several States fully comply with these requisitions, the Army will be well supplied with Meat, but should they fail the most fatal Consequences may ensue.

The Commander in Chief hath been exceedingly distressed at the Prospect before him respecting the Supplies of Meat, & Congress have determined to do every thing in their Power to give the needful relief.

I am sensible your Excellency is too well acquainted with the Distresses & dangerous Consequences that must attend a starving Army, to require any Motives in my Power to express, for calling forth every necessary Exertion to prevent a scene so calamitous.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.*

His Excellency the President of Pensylvania.

Col. Sam. Rea to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Northampton County, Sept 17th, 1780.

Gentlemen,

We cannot but with concern inform you of the Situation of the Frontier of this County. Having had Sundry alarms & small parties of the Enemy having made incursions into the remote parts of it who plundered & burnt several Houses we thought it our indispensible Duty to send out a party of men as a Scout which consisted of forty one men part Militia & part of the Volunteers under the Command of L. Moyer the second L. of the Volunteers of this County to make such Discoveries as they could, and examine into the Reasons why a Number of Families on the Enemies Boarders remain on their Farms without Molestation or apprehension and give us information of the same, who accordingly

* See page 556, & Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 484.

marched from Canaudenhutten (a small old Moravian Town Situated behind the blue Mountains on the west Branch of Delaware) on the Eighth Inst. and were attacked on the Eleventh at the Nusquepeck by a party of whitemen & Indians who had the advantage of the first fire on our men which obliged them to retreat. The Enemies loss we cannot ascertain but the wounded & missing of ours, amount to twentythree, four of the former and Nineteen of the latter. On the fifteenth a Number of Militia & Volunteers to the amount of one-hundred or upwards marched with a Design of burying the Dead & making such observations as might lead to a Discovery of the Enemies Number or Design. We have called on Our Delinquents & find them far inferior to the Number necessary for the Defence of so extensive a Frontier, We therefore request that your honourble Board would be pleased immediately to issue your order for calling one class of the Militia throughout the County to be stationed for two Months as a Guard on the Frontier & as we are nearly Destitute of ammunition pray that you would be pleased to furnish us with a sufficient Quantity for that Purpose at least four or five hundred weight of Powder and Lead in Proportion for which we will be accountable. The first Quantity sent up was distributed among the Frontier inhabitants & the last given to the seven Months men. We know not what immediate Demand there may be for ammunition & would be grieved should a request therefor be made with which we could not comply.*

We are Gentlemen yours, &c.

SAMUEL REA,
PETER BUNKHALTER, } Lieu^ts.
JOHN HAYS.

To His Excellency Joseph Read Pres^t. and the honourable Council.

Gen. James Potter to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sunbury, Septr 18th, 1780.

On the tenth instant befor I arived at my Hous I received Information of an actact been maid by the savages and British suposed to be about 300 in number on fort Rice, and that all the soldiers and others that could be collected were to assemble the nixt day, at this place and March in Quest of the enemy I set off that night for this place on my coming here I found by the speys that had been sent out that the enemy were not so numberus as at first was apprehended they then Reported them to be about one Hundred. I Discharged the Vollintiers that came from Cumberland and as soon as we could

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 485.

get provisions which was the nixt morning I marched the Redhinder consisting of 170 men up the west brench to fort Swarts I then went to Col. Kelley who lay at the mouth of Whitdeer Creek with 80 men our accounts of the enemys rout seemed unsertain at that time we concluded to Joyn the nixt morning and to proceed along the Moncey Hill towards Huntingtown Col. Kelley had sent out three speys the day before up the west Brench who were not Returned nor did they return that night. In the morning Col. Kelley and some of his officers waited on me and Informed us that the speys were not returned and they were convinced that they were either killed or taken prisoners it was thought most advisable to proceed on up the Brench least the enemy should take about and fall on the Inhabitance of Butler Valley who was allmost without men as every man who was well able to bare arms had turned out vollintiers with the party I then ordered Col. Kelley to march up that side of the Brench his men were on and I wold go up the other side when we got up to Moncey hill Kelley speys Returned and assured us that the enemy had not gon up the brench I then sent orders to Col. Kelley to Joyn me which he did Immediately we then changed our rout and sett off for Huntingtown and that night being the 13th after night an express was sent after us leting us know that the enemy were in the Neighborhood of Middle Creek the nixt morning I sent Colonels Kelley and Purdey Back with 150 men the Vollinters of Butler and Militia under Col. Purdey and I proceeded on with the Remainder 110 Vollinteers and others and that day came to the where the enemy had lodged on there way coming down and returning the next day we followed them in hopes that they wold halt there we were the rather inclined to beleve as the enemy had killed but one man and taken one prisoner when they attacted fort Rice we followed there tracts Nearly opesit to Wyoman and found they were so far gon that it was in Vain for us to go any furder after them we Return without seeing one of the enemy.

It is a folley to trouble Councill with an account of our dismell situation on the frunteers we are sensable of it I would just inform them that we have not got that Relefe from Cumberland that I expected I was maid to Beleve that 200 of the Cumberland County Militia would come to this county when in Reality there is but two Companeys consisting of about seventy both, Council may Remember they were sending two companeys to this pleace untill I prevented it by tilling them that I was informed that 200 of the Cumberland Militia were gon, as the Number of Militia is so very small and the enemy seems to com against us in force I would Request it as a favour of Councill that they would order one Class of the York County Militia Imedatly to this pleace and the other two Classes agreeable to the Resolve they maid when I was last with them this I think may be also complyd with by the York County Militia as they will be dun sowing there fall Crops, the enemy Burnt and destroyed every thing in there power and on there way going the sent a party

and Burnt the fort and Buildings at fort Jinkines which had been Avakated a few days before on the enemys appeering at fort Rice.

I am with Respect your Excellency
Most obedient Humble servant
JAS. POTTER.

P.S. Since I wrote the above I am informed by Capt Robeson that a large bodey of the Enemy crossed the Moncey Hill near one Eveses and went up the Moncey Creek so that it is leekly that the Number that was down amounted to near 300 men there Baggage was seen by a few men that was out from fort Rice before they attacked it which discovery prevented the fort from being surprised they carred of a larg number of Cattle and Horses with them.

J. POTTER.*

Directed,
Public Service.
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Honble executive Council of Pennsylvania.
☞ favour of R. Martin Esqr.

Hon. John Adams to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Duplicate.

Amsterdam, Septr 20th, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excelleneys Letter in Council of the tenth of July.† I had the Honour to receive three days ago.

The honourable Gentleman who brought this Letter is now at Paris. If I should have the happiness to meet him either there or at Amsterdam, he may depend upon every Civility and assistance in my Power, both from a Regard to his own Character and to the Recommendation of your Excellency and the Supreme Executive Council.

I beg leave to assure your Excellency and the Council of my greatest Respect, and that if at any time, it should be in my Power to assist their Designs, or their agents or Friends in Europe, consistent with the Duties of the Place I am in, I shall esteem it a pleasure and an honour to do it.

I have the Honor to be, with the greatest Respect,
Sir, your most obedient
And most humble servant.
JOHN ADAMS.

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr President of Pensylvania.
Indorsed,
From honble John Adams, Esq.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 490, 492.
† See page 399.

Lt. Col. Stephen Balliet to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Northampton County, Septr 20th, 1780.

Sir,

I take the earliest oppertunity to acquaint your Excelency of the Distrissed and Dangerous Situation of our fronteer Inhabitants, and the Misfortune Happened to our Volunteers stationed at the Gnaden Hutts.

They having Recd Intelligence that a Number of Disaffected Persons lived near the Susquehannah at a place called the Scotch valley, who have been suspected to hold up a correspondence with the Indians, and the Tories in the country. They sat out on the 8th Inst for that Place to see whether they might be able to find out anything of that nature, but were attacked on the 10th at noon about 8 miles from that settlement by a large Body of Indians & Torys (as one had Rid hair,) Supposed by some forty & by others twice that number they totaly Dispersed our People, Twenty two out of forty one have since come in several of whom are wounded.

It is also Reported that Lieut Jno Moyer had been made Prisoner & made his escape from them again & Returned at Wyoming.

On the first notice of this unfortuned event the officers of the militia have Exerted themselfs to get Volunteers out of their Respective Divissions to go up & Buirry the Dead, their Labour Proved not in Vain we collected about 150 men officers Included from the Colonels Kern, Giger & my own Batallions, who would undergo the fatigue & Danger to go their & pay that Respect to their slautered Brethren, Due to men who fell in support of the freedom of their Country.

On the 15th we took up our line of march (want of amunation Prevented us from going Sooner) on the 17th we arrived at the place of action, where we found Ten of our Soldiers Dead, Scalped, Striped Naked, & in a most cruel & Barborous manner Tomehawked, their throads Cut, &c. &c. whom we Buiried & Returned without even seeing any of these Black alies, & Bloody executors of British Tirany.

I can't Conclute without observing that the Colo's Kern of the 8d Battalion & Giger of the 6th who is upwards of sixty years of age, Together with all the other officers and men have encountered these High & many Hills & mountains with the greatest satisfaction & Dicipline Imaginably, and their Countenances appeared to be Eager to engage with these Tiranical enemy's who are employed by the British Court and aquipt at their Expence, as appeared by a new fusse and several Gun Barrels &c. Bent & broke in pieces with the British Stamp thereon, found by our men.

We also have great Reason to beleve that several of the Indians have been killed by our men, in Particular one by Col. Kern & an

other by Capt. Moyer both of whome went Volunteers with this Partie. We Vewed where they said they fired at them and found the grass & weeds Rimarkably beat down, though they had carried them of.

So I conclude with Remaining your Excellency's
most Humble servent,
STEPHEN BALLIET.
Lt Colo 1st B. N. C. M.

Directed,
To Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr &c. Philadelphia.

Col. Ephraim Blaine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philada, 21st September, 1780.

Sir,

His Excellency General Washington has order'd me to lay up seven thousand Barrels of Salt Provisions in this City, Easton & Pitts Town, and One thousand Barrels at Carlisle—exclusive of the above small parcels ought to be salted up where Posts are Establish'd to secure the Troops against want next Winter & Spring—to answer the above purpose ten thousand Bushels of Salt is necessary and will be immediately wanting, have therefore to request your Excellency & Council to adopt some plan for procuring that quantity and give directions to your Agents to deliver the same to my Order.

I should wish to have an Opportunity of speaking with the Council and giving them my Oppinion respecting small Magasines of Salt Provisions.

I am very respectfully Sir,
Your most Obt &
Most Hble Servt.,
EPH. BLAINE, C. G. P.

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Col. Daniel Brodhead to Cap. Samuel Brady, 1780.

Head Qrs, Fort Pitt, Sep. 21st, 1780.

Sir,

As Money is not yet sent to this Department to pay for the Provisions necessary to subsist the Troops, & they have already suffered; And as our endeavours to obtain a temporary supply from the Inhabitants upon the credit of the United States have not proved effectual, I am Instructed by the honble Board of War, prudently to avail myself of a licence given by the honble Executive Council

of the State of Pen^a in the words following viz., in the mean time we can have no objection to the using necessary Compulsion rather than the Troops should suffer, I sincerely lament the necessity of using this mode of supplying the Troops under my command, & wish it could be avoided, but I hope the virtuous Inhabitants will judge rightly of the measure & chearfully submit to a temporary Compulsion for to gain an everlasting Right to dispose of their property not only by their own consent in the Legislature but by Inclination as Individuals.

And I desire you will assure them that I have just reason to expect they will be generously & speedily paid the full value of such articles of Provisions as may be taken for supplying the Troops.

An Ast. Purchasing Commissary is to attend you & previous to your making use of Compulsory means you are to make the Inhabitants acquainted with your Instructions, after which if they are of ability to spare Cattle or sheep to the Commissary upon public Credit agreeable to the terms mentioned in his Instructions & shall refuse so to do, then, & not otherwise you will proceed to take from such of them refusing as aforesaid as many Cattle & sheep as they can spare without Injury to their Families & further encrease and all such Cattle & Sheep are to be immediately marked for the Public & drove to some Field, to be taken in a convenient part of the Settlement for Collecting & herding them, until a sufficient number be collected for the present exigency. For all which you are to pass Receipts agreeable to the valuation or appraisement of the Commissary & one reputable Inhabitant, which you will cause to be made. You are to acquaint me frequently by letter of your success inclosing returns of the Cattle & Sheep taken, and procured by consent.

You are upon no pretence to take Cattle or Sheep from the poorer sort of Inhabitants or from such as have been great sufferers by the Enemy, but you are to take them from such as have lived more secure.

The good Inhabitants are to be treated with the utmost Civility & you shall inflict immediate punishment on Soldiers guilty of Maranding or insulting the Inhabitants who conduct themselves inoffensively towards them.

You are to consider these Instructions as confined to those Inhabitants only who have uniformly considered themselves as Citizens of Pen^a, as the licence of the Honble Executive Council cannot at present be understood to extend to such as in the unsettled state of the boundaries have acknowledged another jurisdiction.

I wish you great success & hope you will be enabled to obtain the necessary supplies for immediate Consumption by agreement & consent.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

DAN^L BRODHEAD,

Col^o Command^g W. D.

Directed.—Captn. Saml Brady.

JAMES LOUGHEAD TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Philad., 21 Sep^t, 1780.

May it Please Council,

Money is Now Wanted to Pay Those Melitia off who have servd Theire Tower of Duty. I find by the Lieu^ts Receipts of yesterday, There is Paid into Mr. Snowdens Office £68,025 which Council will be pleas'd to give order for to Supply the emediate Demand.

I have the honour to be

the Councils Ob^t Hum^l Sert.,

JAMES LOUGHEAD.*

Directed,

To His Excelency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of Council of the common Welth of Pensylvania.

COL. SAMUEL HUNTER TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Sunbury, Septr. 21st, 1780.

Sir,

We were alarmed by a large party of the Enimy making their appearance in our County on the 6th Inst. they came first to a small Fort that Col. Weltners troops had Erected on the Head Waters of Chilisquake called Fort Rice, about thirteen miles from Sunbury, which I ordered to be garrisoned by twenty of our militia when the German Regiment marched of the Enimy attacted the Fort about Sundown and fired very smartly, the garrison Returned the fire with spirit, which made them withdraw a little off, and in the night they began to set fire to a number of Houses and Stacks of Grain which they consumed, in the meantime our militia had Collected to the number of oneHundred men under the Command of Col. John Kelly who marched to the Relief of the Garrison, and arrived there the next day, the people in the Garrison acquainted Col. Kelly there must be two Hundred and fifty or three Hundred of the Enimy, which he did not think prudent to engage without being Reinforced, the confusion this put the inhabitants in, it was not Easy to collect a party equal to fight the savages, I Imediately sent off an Express to Col. Purdy on Juneate whome I heard was marching to the Frontiers of Cumberland County with the militia, he came as Quick as Possible to our assistance with one Hundred and ten of the Militia, and about Eighty Volunteers, which was no small Reinforcement to us. General Potter just coming home from Camp at this Critical time, came up to Sunbury and took the Command of the party that went in Quest of the Enimy.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 466.

But Previous to his marching, discharged the Volunteers, as he Concluded by the information he had Received from spyes we had out, that the Enimy did not Exceed one Hundred and fifty, and that they had withdrawn from the Inhabitants to some Remote place, General Potter However marched on to Muncy Hill, but was a little Baffled by the information he had of their Route, and did not come on their track till the 13th and followed on about fifty miles up fishing creek the Road the Enimy took but finding they had got too far a head returned here the 17th inst. the Enemy got but one Scalp and one prisoner, we all concluded the Enimy had gon off but on the 18th there was a small party made their appearance on the West Branch about fourteen miles above this, they killed one man and Wounded another, and killed their horses they had in the Plow which plainly shows they have scattered into small partys to Harras the inhabitants, which I am afraid will prevent the People from getting Crops put in the Ground this fall. When the German Regiment marched off from here I give orders to the Frontier Companys to embody and keep one fourth of the men constantly Reconnoitering, after garrissoning Fort Jenkins, Fort Rice, and Fort Swarts, with twenty men in Each of them, this was the only method I could think of encouraging the people as we were left to our own Exertions, only about thirty of Capt. McCays Company of Volunteers from Cumberland County, untill the 10th Inst. that two Companys of Militia came here from the same County in the whole about Eighty men, when I received the inteligence of a large party of savages and tories comeing against Fort Rice I give orders to Evacuate Fort Jenkins as I did not look uppon it to be tenable, which is since burned by the Enimy, and would have shared the same had the men stayed there on act. of the Buildings that was adjoining it, the Companys I had given orders to Embody and do duty for one month their time is now out, and what Militia we have from Cumberland County is not adiquit to grant us the Relief Expected, I would be desirous Council would give me Orders to Continue some of the Companys I have embodied doing duty one month longer for to be ingenious I never see times wear a more gloomy aspect since our glorious strugle for liberty than the present.

I am Sir with every Sentiment of Esteem

Your most Obed. & Very Hble. Servt.

SAM. HUNTER.

P. S. Our Volunteers has had some success in the Scalping way on the 28th ult. Lieu. Jacob Creamer, William Campbell and two the name of Grove, took two Scalps about one hundred and fifty miles from here on ye west branch of Susquahana as you will see by ye Certificate.

S. H.

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq.

* See Col. Rec, Vol. XII, p. 490.

Michael Huffnagle to Thos. Scott, 1780.

Sir,

Col. Proctor informs me, that after the Committee had taken into consideration, the Petition from myself & the Officers of the two Companies, that the said Committee had there upon agreed that we should have the same allowance as Officers of the same Rank in the Continental Army—and upon a second Reading of this Report the House have Resolved that the President and Council were to make us such allowance as would be a compensation for our trouble and expense. I would therefore just inform you, that my time of service was from the eleventh of February 1779 to the first of July following which I have certified by the Lieutenants of the County, that during said time I found my own Horse forage and Provisions, (except thirty seven Rations & three Bushels of forage) the President and Council will therefore make me such allowance as they shall Judge sufficient, as to the Captains & subalterns, if Council should think proper to make them the same allowance. for their Recruiting expense, of Captain Guthrey, I should judge the same to be a sufficient Compensation—I hope Council will not take this amiss & shall leave the whole to their consideration, & make not the least doubt of having a sufficient Compensation allowed.

Your Hble. Servt.
MICH. HUFFNAGLE.*

Captain Jacks Company,	Captain Stokeleys Company,
1 Lieutenant	1 Lieutenant
1 Ensign	1 Ensign
Forty three Rank & file	Thirty Rank & file.

Indorsed,—21 Sept. 1780.
Directed,—Thos. Scott Esq.

Resolve of General Assembly, 1780.

State of Pennsylvania in General Assembly.
Friday, 22d Sept. 1780.

A Resolution of The Honorable Congress was received and read, informing, "That Congress will advance one third of the sum necessary for the purchase of one thousand Head of Cattle† to be immediately forwarded to the Army;"—Whereupon,

On motion,

Resolved, That the Supreme Executive Council be requested to direct, that one thousand Head of Cattle be immediately purchased by the Commissioners of this State for the use of the Federal Army, Congress advancing one third of the price thereof agreeable to the Resolution aforesaid.

Extract from the Minutes
SAM'L STERETT, Ass' Clerk.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 487. † Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 488.

Resolutions of General Assembly, 1780.

State of Pennsylvania In General Assembly.

Saturday, 23d September, 1780.

The House resumed the consideration of the Report of the Committee upon the Determination of the General Assembly of Virginia respecting the disputed Boundary, and having maturely considered the same, it was unanimously agreed to as follows, viz.

Resolved, That, although the conditions annexed, by the Legislature of Virginia, to the Ratifications of the boundary line agreed to by the Commissioners of Pennsylvania and Virginia on the thirty first day of August, 1779, may tend to countenance some unwarrantable claims, which may be made under the State of Virginia, in consequence of pretended purchases or settlements pending the controversy, yet this State determining to give the World the most unequivocal proof of their earnest desire to promote peace & harmony with a Sister State so necessary during this great contest against the Common Enemy, do agree to the conditions proposed by the State of Virginia, in their Resolves of the twenty third of June last,* to wit.

"That the Agreement made on the 31st day of August, 1779, "between James Madison and Robert Andrews, Commissioners for "the Commonwealth of Virginia, and George Bryan, John Ewing "and David Rittenhouse, Commissioners for the Commonwealth of "Pennsylvania be ratified and finally confirmed, to wit: That the "line commonly called Mason's and Dixon's line, be extended due "West five degrees of longitude, to be computed from the River "Delaware, for the Southern Boundary of Pennsylvania, and that "a Meridian drawn from the Western extremity thereof to the "Northern limits of the said States respectively, be the Western "Boundary of Pennsylvania forever: On Condition that the private "property and rights of all persons acquired under, founded on, or "recognized by the laws of either country, previous to the date "hereof be saved and confirmed to them, although they should be "found to fall within the other, and that in the decision of disputes "thereon preference shall be given to the elder or prior right, which "ever of the said States the same shall have been acquired under, "such persons paying within whose boundary their lands shall be "included, the same purchase or consideration money which would "have been due from them to the State under which they claimed "the right, and where any such purchase or consideration money "hath since the declaration of American Independence been received "by either State for lands, which, according to the before recited "Agreement shall fall within the territory of the other, the same "shall be reciprocally refunded and repayed; and that the Inhabi-

* See pages 352, 353.

"tants of the Disputed Teritory now ceded to the State of Pennsyl-
"vania, shall not, before the first day of December in the present,
"year, be subject to the payment of any tax, nor at any time to
"the payment of arrears of taxes or impositions heretofore laid by
"either State."—

And We do hereby accept and fully ratify the said recited condition, and the Boundary Line formed thereupon.

Resolved, That the President and Council of this State be, and they are hereby impowered to appoint two Commissioners on the part of this State, in conjunction with Commissioners to be appointed by the State of Virginia, to extend the line commonly called Mason's and Dixon's Line, five Degrees of Longitude from Delaware River, and from the Western termination of the Line so extended to run and mark, as soon as may be a Meridian Line to the Ohio River, the remainder of that Line to be run as soon as the President and Council taking into their consideration the disposition of the Indians, shall think it prudent. And the President and Council are hereby authorized to give to the said Commissioners such Instructions in the premises as they shall think fit.*

Extract from the minutes,

SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.

Indorsed,

Resolution of the Assembly of Pennsylv^a concerning the Boundary line between Virginia & Pennsylv^a.

Mons. Holker to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, ye 23^d, September, 1780.

Sir,

As I shall depart in a few days for Rhode Island, & as I learn that the Hon^e the General Assembly of this State are soon to break up, I take the liberty of requesting from your Excellency & Council an answer respecting the assistance and protection which the Hon^e the Continental navy board, his Excellency the Minister plenipotentiary & myself have claimed, in order to procure some large masts† from the heads of Schuylkill for the use of the Ships of the continental, & the Royal navy. I most Earnestly entreat your Excellency & Council, to remonstrate if necessary on this subject, to the general Assembly, so as some measures may be adopted for the Safety of the workmen, which I am informed the militia and inhabitants of the adjacent country are ready to afford, by taking post at one of the passages of the mountains, as it will Effectually prevent the inroads of

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 476, 486.
† See pages 540, 550.

the Indians on their plantations. I hope your Excellency will condescend to favour me with an answer on this Subject so as I may report the same to the Commander in Chief of his majestys naval forces in Rhode Island on my arrival there.*

I Remain with the highest Sentiments
of Respect & attachment
Sir Your most obedient
most humble servant
HOLKER.

Directed,—His Excelleney Jos. Reed, Esqr., Presid^t.

Henry Wynkoop to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Bucks County, 23d Sept., 1780.

Sir,

Immediately on the Receipt of your favour of the 16th Inst., measures were taken for convening the Justices of this County, to whom I communicated your Letter, And I have now the pleasure to inform your Excellency that the Justices have quotaed four thousand Bushels of wheat upon the different Townships to be delivered into the Mills for manufacturing by the 15th of October next, And to remidy the ill Credit of the Money they have appointed a good Man in each Township who will call upon the Inhabitants to induce them to bring in their proportion and also to make return to the Purchaser of those who refuse; so that there is good Cause to expect from the adoption of this mode for procuring the Supply of Flower for this County the Deficiencys of public Credit will be fully remedied by the Virtue of Individuals.

The Justices beg leave to remark to your Excellency that those Men appointed in the Different Townships will have some trouble for which it is reasonable they should be compensated, would therefore wish Council to take some Order for that purpose.

The Justices also conceive that the prices given for wheat, viz., 10s. is not proportionate to the necessary expences of the Farmer, nor equal to what is got for flower in Market, the Exchange upon the State money being considerably less than the exchange upon Specie, and as the supplies are generally procured from those that are willing, the public Burden falls heavy upon those who ought least to bear them, for those & many other reasons the Justices conceive that more generous prices ought to be given for the present supplies.

I am in behalf of the Justices
your Excellencies
most Obedient & very Humble Servt,
HENRY WYNKOOP.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Council of Pensylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 488.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, 23d Sept. 1780.

Sir,

The board have pressing calls upon them for a larger number of arms for the southern army than they can at present furnish.

The A. C. Genl of m^y stores informs them that he can have repaired in six weeks three thousand stand—but in the mean time the greatest evils may be experienced in the southern states for want of them. In this exigency, the board have no recourse but to request of your Excellency & the honble Council, a loan of about one thousand arms & accoutrements, including those furnished by the Continent to the State on the late call of the militia.

The board are induced to hope that there will be no inconvenience to the State in lending the arms—as from the present posture of affairs in this Quarter, there seems to be but little probability that they will be wanted for the militia before they can be replaced.

I have the honor to be
with the highest respect
y^r Excellency's mo. obed.
Hble serv.,
By ord.,
BEN. STODDERT,
Sec'y.

Directed,
His Excellency President Reed.
War Office.

Petition of James Rowan, 1780.

To the Honble the President and Members of the Supreme Exect^v Council of the Commonwealth of Pensylvania.

The Petition of James Rowan Humbly Sheweth,

That your petitioner has been an Inhabitant of the District of Southwark for many years Past where he followed the Vendue Business, But at the Commencement of the Present war Voluntarily Turned out in Defence of his Country, and Dureing the Enemies Possession of this Citty was serving his Country in the High places of the field (which some members Of this Honble Board Can Testify) and left his wife and Helpless Children, with all his worldly Effects, to the mercy of the Enemy, who stript them of Every thing, and haveing no trade or any Visible means of Supporting himself and

Growing family, would Humbly Request this Honble Board to appoint him Vendue Master for said District, your Petitioner begs leave to present the Inclosed Petition and Recomdation formerly Present'd to the Honble the House of Assembly, which he hopes Will have its due weight, in hopes that your Honble Board will Grant his request he will as in Duty Bound, &c., &c.

JAMES ROWAN.

Sept. 26th, 1780.

—

To the Honorable the Representatives of the Freemen of the State of Pennsylvania, In General Assembly met.

The Petition of James Rowan, an Inhabitant of the Districk of Southwark.

Most Humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioner has been a zealous friend to the Cause of American Freedom since the Commencement of the Hostilitys between Great Britain and America, in which Contest he has not only taken his Tour of duty agreeable to the Laws of this State, but has offer^d his Services Voluntarily to act in Different Capacitys wherein said services Cou^d be Beneficial in the Support of the Libertys of his Country, the fact of which he Refers to some of the worthy and Honorable members of this assembly.

The prayer of your petitioner is therefore that from the above Circumstances and the Necessitous Situation of a young & Growing Family, your Honors wou^d please to Grant him a Licence or Liberty to Keep a publick Vendue for the Districk of Southwark, in which Capacity he has already acted for several years, with Honesty Integrety he thinks, & the Approbation of his friends in General, he therefore Humbly prays your Honors will take his Situation into Consideration, and shou^d you think him worthy of such an appointment he will be for ever in duty bound to your Honors for So Doing.

JAMES ROWAN.

November 30th, 1778.

—

We the subscribers being well acquainted with the within Named James Rowan, wou^d therefore Recomend him to your Notice as being a worthy Citizen & good friend to his Country, & Shou^d you

think him worthy of Granting his Request we have not the least doubt of his meeting it.

Robert Alleson,
James Skinner,
John Smith,
George Duffield,
Samuel Moore,
James Little,
Thomas Casdorp,
Joseph Snowden,
Jon^a B. Smith,
Robert Cather,
William Hardy,
Isaac Howell,
John Biddle,
Wm. Hall,
Peter Thompson,
Frederick Kuhl,
Wm. West, Junr.,
Francis Gurney,
Robert Hunter,
John Eyre,
Benj^a Eyre,
Peter Brown,
Paine Newman,
William Hodge,
Andrew Hodge,
Jacob Bright,
John Hall Cooper.

Christian Wurtz to Hon. Wm. Moore, 1780.

Lancaster, September 27th, 1780.

Sir,

I have to inform you that since my return from Philadelphia, there has been many Persons with me offering Beef Cattle for Sale, fit for present use; should their be occasion for purchasing, I think considerable Numbers might be procured in this County for continental Money, at a reasonable rate. The second Crops of Hay & pasturage proving so very bad, on Acc^t of the dry Season, compels many Farmers to dispose of part of their Stock. Should these purchases come under our Department, would be extremely obliged to you to inform me thereof.

I have the Honor to be

y^r most obd. & H. Servt.,

CHRISTIAN WURTZ, C. P. L. C.

Directed,

The Hon. William Moore, Esq., Philadelphia.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, Sept. 27, 1780.

Sir,

The Southern Army are exceedingly distressed for Want of Tents. The Board are informed that the State of Pennsylvania have a Number, which might probably be spared to the United States. We beg to know of the Honble. Council whether we can have about two hundred, or a larger quantity if they can be spared, and on what

Terms—The Board will either replace them, when enabled so to do out of the public Stock, or recommend to Congress Measures for payment of their Value to the State—We request a speedy Answer, as the Occasion is pressing, and hope it may be convenient for Council to comply with our request. If the Interposition of Congress should be deemed by your Honourable Board necessary, we will take Instant Measures for obtaining it.

We have the Honour to be,
with the greatest Respect,
your very obed. Servants.
RICHARD PETERS,
By order.

On the public Service of the United States.

Honble. William Moore, Esqr., Vice President of the Honble. Sup. Ex. Council of Pennsilvania.

(War Office.)

Gov. Wm. Livingston to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Trenton, 29th Sept, 1780.

Gentlemen:

At the Meeting of the Legislature at this place, we found here a certain Mr Joel* professing himself to be an Officer in the British Army, and to have deserted from it to offer his Service to these United States. He has not hitherto (perhaps for want of Opportunity) given such proof of the rectitude of his Intentions as we could wish to have, previous to our placing any Confidence in the Professions of a Gentleman so peculiarly circumstanced—Trenton is deemed a very improper place, especially during the sitting of the Legislature, for the residence of any person of dubious Character. Nor, indeed, can any place in this State, considering its extent of frontier and Promixity to the Enemy, & the Opportunity thence resulting for maintaining a Correspondence with them (should he be so disposed) be thought a proper Abode for such doubtful Characters. I have therefore, by the Advice of Council, sent him to your Board, to be disposed of in some interior part of the Country, where he cannot, with equal probability of Success, carry into Execution any pernicious designs (if such he has) against the Liberties of this Country.

I am, &c.,
WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Honble. the Board of War.

Copy.

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 495.

Robert Forsyth to Col. Ephraim Blaine, 1780.

Frederickburg, September 29, 1780.

Dear Col.,

I have just Time to write you a short Letter, by Col. Finnie—he will present you with my Book of Returns, which contains Copies of all the Returns of purchases which have been made me while acting under the Direction of Col. Wadsworth & yourself; likewise, general Return & Acco^t^ current for each. You find those since 1st March at the latter End of the Book. Balance of Acco^t^ in my favour, £236,687-7-4, V. Curr'y. Besides this Sum, I shall have further return made by Mr Tate for Convention Troops, and Col. Hendricks for Fish, which I expect will amount to near £100,000—this I shall bring with me in a few days.

I thought it necessary to forward my Returns, that you may procure immediately a Warrant on the State of Virginia for the Balance as the greater part of the Sum is already rec^d^ from Sheriffs and Collectors of Taxes—and the Auditors next Month will move against them for Settlement; and they have nothing to show but my Drafts on the Treasury, which will be denied Credit, unless you procure me a Warrant to cover them.

The inclosed Letter from the Executive will point out to you the prospect I have of Supplying the Convention Troops with Bread; my Agent There, who has lately resigned, is indebted to the People 80 or 100,000 £; & until that Sum is p^d^ I have no hopes of getting Cred^t^ for two pence in that Quarter.

The above Letter will show you that it is not in my Power to send you Beef to Philad^a^—indeed, I do not think they can feed the Convention Troops with Beef till January, on their present plan—when every Man has it in his power to get what Sum for his Cattle he pleases.

Our Situation in this Quarter is disagreeable; the purchasing Season coming on, & no preparations can be made—I even cannot engage a pork Barrel.

Your very hble. Servt,

ROBT. FORSYTH, D. C. G. P.

Copy.

Gen. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Head Quarters, Orange Town, 1st Oct. 1780.

Dear Sir,

I am under the necessity of laying before your Excellency, the Copy of a representation made to me yesterday, by the Comm^y^. General of Issues, on the Subject of Flour. The representation goes so fully and truly into our present Situation and prospects, that

I shall only refer your Excellency to it, and then intreat you to exert your authority and influence, with the Agents and all others concerned, in procuring and forwarding a Supply to Trenton without delay.

Of 470 Barrels which were in the Magazine at West point, I have been unavoidably obliged to draw down 300 to this Army, by which, that valuable Post may be endangered, should the Enemy endeavour to attain by force, what they attempted to gain by treachery; but in which they have been so providentially disappointed.

I most sincerely condole with your Excellency on the loss of your amiable Lady. The news of that melancholy event was imparted to me by the minister of France on my journey from Harford.

I have the Honor to be with great Respect &
Esteem Y^r. Excellency's most obt. and Hble. Servt.
G^o. WASHINGTON.

Head Quarters, Tappan, 30th Sept. 1780.

Sir,

The quantity of Flour in the Magazine at Camp and in the hands of the Brigade Commissaries will only supply the troops for tomorrow. By letters from Philadelphia of the 26th instant and from Trenton of the 27th from my Deputies, am informed that there was none on hand at those places, so that the two hundred Barrels ordered from West point is all the Flour that we are now sure of. I am therefore under the disagreeable necessity of informing Your Excellency that unless uncommon diligence is used in getting that article from Pennsylvania or New York at the end of three days, the Army will be again without Bread.

I am most respectfully Your Excellency's,
most obt. Servt.
CHAS. STEWART,
Comm. General Issues.

Copy,
His Excellency Gen. Washington.

Gen. Wm. Irvine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

West point, October 1st, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I was ordered here with my Brigade on the alarm that was occasioned by Arnolds Villainous business.

I made a rapid march and found the place on my arrival in a most miserable situation in every respect—1800 Militia had been at the Post, but were chiefly Detached on various pretences, those who remained had no post assigned them, nor knew nor had a single order what to do. I have not heard from Head Quarters to day—but I have reason to believe major Andre & Smith must be Hung.

Mr. Lytle being Idle here & the stores long since exhausted, & supposing Mr. Farmer to have another supply ready by this time, I have ordered him to Philadelphia for them. Neither officers nor men have had more than two months pay for nine months past, this being the case it is easy to judge how necessary the stores are for their existance. I should not have taken on myself however to send Mr. Lytle as I do not Command the Line. But he being of my Brigade & we Detached not knowing when we shall rejoin, much time might be spent, before General St. Clair could give him orders besides we find from experience that Mr. Farmer very seldom thinks of Purchasing a single article untill he actually goes down. Tho' I hope this is not now the case.

I have the honor to be Dear Sir, Your
Excellencys most Obedient Humble Servant,
WM. IRVINE.

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire.

BOARD OF WAR TO V. P. MOORE, 1780.

War Office, Octr 24, 1780.

Sir,

The Board have the Honour to enclose a Copy of a Letter from Gov. Livingston on the subject of Capt Joel,* whose case is therein set forth. On his deserting from the Enemy he was sent as a prisoner by the Comr in Chief, who deemed it necessary to make the strictest Inquiry into the Matter, as Mr. Joel's Circumstances & Account of himself were singular. After his being kept in Custody at Philadelphia for some time the General desired we would give Orders for his Discharge under strict Injunctions not to go near the Army. This was accordingly done, & thereafter we conceived Mr. Joel to be no longer amenable to any Authority we might possess when he was considered as a military Prisoner. We suppose him to be accountable only to the Government of the State in which he happens to be, & therefore have directed the Officer who has him in Charge to deliver him where your Honble. Board shall direct, or set him at Liberty if it should be the Opinion of Council that it is proper.

We have the Honour to be
with great Respect
your very obed Servts,
RICHARD PETERS,
By Order.

Directed,

On public Service.

Honble. William Moore, Esqr, Vice President of the Sup. Ex. Council of Pennsilvania.

(War Office.)

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 494, 499, and p. 576 of this Vol.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, Octo^r 5th, 1780.

Sir,

The board have been again called upon for a supply of Arms for the southern States, and are again under the necessity of troubling your Excellency & the honble. Council on the Subject—They have not yet been favored with an answer to their letter of the 23d ulto.*

I have the honor to be
with high respect
y^r Excellency's most obed serv.,
by ord. BEN. STODDERT, Sec'y.

Directed,
His Excellency President Reed.
(War office.)

Col. Sam'l J. Atlee to V. P. Moore, 1780.

Pequea, October 5th, 1780.

Sir,

I should have done myself the Honor of answering your Letter of the 29th Ult. e'er this, but had not a minute received it before Mr. Curtis Grubb, as Express, arrived for my assistance in one of the upper Districts of this County, where the ill-advised people had assembled to oppose the Execution of the Militia Law, absolutely refusing to pay the Fines, &c^a. I am just now returned from that disagreeable duty, having brought those deluded persons to a sense of theirs, solemnly engaging in future to behave as good subjects of the State, and to perform the Duties required of them by the Laws. —I think this is the last District I shall have to conquer in this County, and in settling them shall render essential Service to the Lieutenant of Berks, as the District of that County adjoining had refused Obedience to the Sub. Lieutenant, and were waiting the result of my people; they will now, I expect, submit to their proper Officers. I am much obliged to Mr. Curtis Grubb and a number of other Gentlemen at Lebanon for their countenance and assistance in this affair, as well as to Col. Clerk, Sub. Lieutenant at Hanover, who flew to my aid with a number of fine fellows from his District. I have given the Orders for one Class of the Militia of this County to rendezvous at Cox's Town on the 20th Inst., to relieve the Cumberland militia doing duty at Sunbury the 25th; as there is no issuing post at Cox's or. in that District I have applied to Mr. Wirtz, the purchasing Commissioner, and directed that provisions be provided for the Troops by the 20th.

* See p. 573.

Next, Sir, I am to inquire of Councill where I am to procure arms to put into the Hands of the Militia at any Time when they shall be called to duty abroad or at Home. My situation is truly alarming, surrounded as I am by such numbers of disaffected, who have in their power at all times (well knowing the defenceless state of the Militia here) to do more than I would wish to name or have them believe I fear. A small magazine at Lancaster, from which the Lieutenant of the County could at any time draw arms or ammunition, is absolutely necessary; it's being known would opperate as a preventative to many disorders we are liable to in this County.

Application has been made to me, Sir, for an Election for a Lt Colo to one of the Battallions of this County, the Lt Colonel formerly chosen and Commissioned being gone to sea without leave of absence or notice of his Departure.

I would have called the Election required, but I was just writing I chose to mention it to Council, and beg their direction for the Election demanded.

I am Sir

with the greatest respect

Your Honors most obt Hble Servt.

SAM. J. ATLEE.

Directed,

On publick Service.

The Honbll. William Moore, Esquire, Vice President of Pennsylvania.

V. P. Moore to Board of War, 1780.

Gentlemen:

In Answer to the letters from your Honble Board of the 28th Ulto & 5th Instt.* I am to acquaint you that this State is not posses'd of any Arms but what are for the Use of the Militia, & as we are uncertain how soon they may be call'd into the Field, we cannot Spare them for the Use You mention.

Indorsed,

Oct. 6, 1780.

* See pages 578, 580.

Col. Ryan to V. P. Moore, 1780.

A sketch of the Duty of an Officer of the Police in the City of Philadelphia.

1st. He should be always ready to attend the orders of Council, and assist (with a party of men if necess^y) to apprehend the person or seize the Papers of any Body obnoxious to the Laws of this State.

2nd. He should have an Office open where every stranger coming by Sea or land, upon his arrival in this City should register his Name, if he staid but one Night, or incur a certain penalty.

3rd. He should make returns of the Names registered to Council once or twice a Week or once a day if thought necess^y.

4th. Every person Registered should pay some small consideration such as 6^d or a shilling Specie; this would in a great measure support the Office and not make it Burthensome to the State, and the Number of Names given in to Council would always acc^t for the money receiv'd.

5th. All keepers of Taverns, lodging houses, &c., should be fineable if they receiv'd any Strangers without acquainting them of the above Office & the Penalty incured for nonconformance.

Honble Sir,

The within Sketch is humbly submitted to your honor's consideration. If an Officer to perform the Duty (with any alterations, additions or amendments that may be thought proper) should be appointed, I beg leave to observe that my business as Inspector is not sufficient employment, and I would willingly do this duty likewise. And as I have a small salary already as Inspector my salary for doing this duty need not be so much as if done by another person.

I have the honor

to be Honble Sir,

your obedient serv^t,

M. RYAN.

P. S. Should the Council think proper I would run the risk of the office supporting itself, and require no other salary than the within mentioned consideration.

Octr 6th, 1780.

Directed,

The Honble. William Moore, Esqr, Vice President State of Pennsylvania.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, October 7, 1780.

Sir,

I am directed by Congress to inform you that a Letter hath been received from the Commander in Chief at Head Quarters, representing that "the Army must again be reduced to Extremity for Want of Flour except a Supply should arrive in a few Days." It is therefore the earnest request of Congress that what remains of the quota of Flour from your State may be sent on with all possible Despatch.

I have the Honor to be
with the highest respect,
your Excellency's most obedt servant,
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.*

Directed,
His Excell^y The President of Pennsylvania.

Col. Beelor to Col. Brodhead, 1780.

October 10th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I received yours of the 7th Inst. this morning, but it is not in my power to give you a just return as you request until the last of this week, for I have been oblidged to issue orders to press horses & draught men, as I could not get Volunteers enough, of which I have not got a return as yet. I am sorry to inform you that I am afraid we shall come but little speed, I find that the Government of Virg^a will not protect me in any thing I do by vertue of the laws of Virg^a since their last Resolution, & the laws of Pensl^a have not as yet taken us under their protection; all this the Countrey is acquainted with, so that every thing I do is at the Risque of my Fortune unless protected by the States. If it had not been to forward an Expedition I should have declined acting a good while ago, as no man ever had a more disagreeable time of it than I have at present, having no law to defend me—We are assured of your good intentions for the safety of the Countrey, & are very sorry that we cannot act with that spirit that we ought to do. But hope the laws of Pen^a will either be extended in a few Days from this time, or the Laws of Virg^a be kept in force. It is very unhappy for this Countrey that the two contending States has not provided a better way for the defence of this

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 500.

Countrey than to let it fall between them both until matters are settled between them.

I have the honor to be with the greatest

Respect, Dear Sir, your most obed^t Hble serv^t,

JOSEPH BEELOR, Coll.

without Law to protect me.

Directed,

Colo. Brodhead.

Copy.

Wm. McCleery to Col. Brodhead, 1780.

Monongahala County, Octr 11th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Your favour ℔ express just now came to hand, it being on public service—Col^o Evans being at this down the Countrey, I open'd it and there find you are again Obliged to postpone your intended expedition, you call for a Return of the number of men and Horses that you may depend on from this County, which I am unable at this to furnish you with, as all the returns were made to Col^o Evans, and he being from home, I can't come immediately at them. However so far I can inform you that upon the receipt of your Letter I went to the Officers of the second Battalion of our County Militia, who happened to be then assembled in General Muster & made the matter known to them, at the same time call'd upon them for a Copy of their Returns, made to Col^o Evans, that I might as near as possible comply with your request, & they (after some consultation held on the matter) gave it me for answer, That as they found all their hopes of Relief from a Campaign being this fall carried against their Indian Enemies were abortive, and knowing that their frontiers were at 60 to 70 Mile in Length, were infested with the savages killing their People, have at last obliged them to say they can't spare any men—further adding that they are heartily sorry that there should be the least seeming Jarr or descenting Voice from the orders of Colonel Brodhead, as a Commanding Officer for the defence of this Country, but from his never having it in his power for want (as we conceive) of the necessary supplies to put his Schemes in execution, during the whole course of last Summer & Fall, & our unhappy People daily falling an easy pray to the Enemy, obliges them to throw off all dependence on any natural aid on this side of the Mountains this fall, but that of themselves for their relief, and therefore they mean to embody, and take the most plausable methods for their defense, and under these circumstances they think their number is already too small without any division. Notwithstanding

they were ready twice last summer, both with Men, Horses, and Provisions, to have comply'd with your requisition fully, had you put your plan in execution. I have (as I look upon it my duty least any deception should take place) stated the matter truly, as I took it from the Officers Mouths. And now permit me to observe to you that the state of our frontiers is really deplorable, to see helpless Women & Children flying before the ravages of the Savage, and that even while part of us is engaged in burying of our Neighbours that have been butchered by them, Others of us is falling a sacrifice to their Hellish inventions, those and many other matters that have come under your Cognisance I hope you will (as a Friend to human nature) state in a proper light to the Board from the which proper relief can be had. I have the Honor to be with due respect

Dr Sir,

yr most Obedt Hble Servt,

Wm McCLEERY.

Directed,

To Coll. Danl. Brodhead,
Commdt W. Dept.

Adam Kuhn to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir

I beg leave to represent to your Excellency, in the most respectful manner, that I have not hitherto been able to procure the Sureties required of me by the Resolve of the honourable supreme executive Council: That the Vessel in which I arrived here hath been stripped of her Sails, and that she is not in a condition to put to Sea, as she sprung a leak in the passage from St. Croix: That my Wife, tho greatly recovered, continues much indisposed & is yet confined to her bed. I therefore entreat your Excellency to lay my case before the honourable supreme Executive Council that they may indulge me with such relief as the case requires. I have the honour to be

Your Excellency's
most obedient
humble Servant,

ADAM KUHN.*

Philada, October 14th, 1780.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 501, 502, 504, 506, 515, 517.

JOHN HUBLEY TO PRES. MOORE, 1780.

Lancaster, Octr. 14th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

This will be handed to you by Dr. Frederick Kuhn a Gentleman much esteemed here, He is a Brother to Doctor Adam Kuhn, has long distinguished himself as a Whig and is personally known to me from his infancy. The affair of his Brother having reached this place has thrown him into much anxiety, and He goes to Philadelphia on that buissiness. The purport therefore of this is that I would wish you aquainted with the Doctors Political Character and should he have any bussiness to transact before Council on his Brothers behalf, you will be so good as to consider this Gentleman a Real Friend to this Country, and not only by good wishes towards it but by personally serving it for a long Time in the medical department untill he was obliged to leave it, with the loss of his Health and danger of his life. The exact Case of his Brother is not yet understood here, but we hear that in his return from the West Indies, he came to New York and from there to Philadelphia in consequence of which He is banished the State. There remains no doubt with me but Council will do exactly that which is right, upon considering the whole of the Doctors circumstances, and would only beg to suggest that tho' the Doctr. in his political Character has observed a Line to walk in so as not to take side with either Party in this Contest, which truly is not only very reprehensible but very unjustifiable, as no man ought, (let his station of Life be what it may) avail himself of the issue of this dispute, (let it turn what way it will) who did not partake of the Toil risque and danger of it. Yet the acknowledged abilities of the Doctor in his profession his great use to the rising generation in that way will perhaps induce Council, should his exile be determined on to continue it only during the War, that he then may return to his native Country.

I am Dear Sir,

your most obedt,

& very hble Servt.

JOHN HUBLEY.

P. S. His Excellency having chiefly finished his Bussiness here will set out to morrow for York, He is in good Health, but Mr. Bayard is not very well.

Directed,

The Honble William Moore Vice President of Pennsylvania Philadelphia.

℘ favour of Doctr. Fred. Kuhn.

Major Gen. La Fayette to Gen. Wayne, 1780.

Light Camp 8bre the 16th, 1780.

I beg your pardon, my dear friend, for not calling on you when Returning from head quarters. But I was detained so late By a sermon that was preached Before the door that I was afterwards catch'd By the Rain and the night—the Enemy have embarked theyr Grenadiers, light infantry, some dragoons, and two Regiments —some say Clinton is going—they fell down the narrows yesterday —Arnold is despised By every Body But the general officers of the British army who treat him very well—such are, my dear Sir, the intelligences I have pick'd up.

I wish you would come and dine to morrow with me—Bring along your family and my friend Butler—you will be a fine fellow if you accept.

Your friend,

LA FAYETTE.

Directed,

General Wayne.
La Fayette M. G.

Brig. Gen. Wayne to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp at Totowa 17th Octr. 1780.

Dear Sir,

In my letter of the 26th July, I informed you that I had it in Command from his Excellency Genl. Washington to ask for as much red Cloth as would be sufficient to face the uniforms of the troops belonging to this state, that the Clothing which had arrived was all blue faced with white, &c, &c.,

I am extremely sorry to be necessitated to contradict the acct. of the arrival of the Clothing. I have it again in Command from the General to acquaint you & the Honorable Council, that the Intelligence he has just recd. is, that thro' the wanton neglect of our Agents in france, no more than thirteen hundred Coats have been yet sent on, altho' by certain Intelligence there were not less than 10, 000 Suits laying ready long before the Sailing of the first Division for America.

It is said that they will yet be sent by Capt. Paul Jones in the *Arial*, should that be the case his arrival may be prevented by the Intervention of a superior force, and the chances are so much against him that I see nothing but the most gloomy prospects with respect to this Essential article.

I am therefore Induced to call upon the Honorable Council to adopt some mode to procure a fresh supply of Blankets, & winter

Clothing, for the Officers & privates belonging to the State of Pennsa. The weather begins to pinch—hard necessity obliges us to be economists—our Soldiers uniforms are much worn & out of repair, we have adopted the Idear of Curtailing the Coats to repair the Elbows & other defective parts for which we shall Immediately want needles & thread, will your Excellency be so Obliging as to Direct them to be procured & sent to Camp with the other Stores, with all possible Dispatch, & appoint Lieut. Dungin of the 6th Regt or Mr. Little State Clothier in place of the Gentleman lately dismissed the Service by the sentance of a Genl. Court Martial.

I wish I could with truth Inform you that our prospects were altering for the better, but that not being the case, I must earnestly request a careful perusal of my letter of the 17th Ultimo, & a due attention to such parts of it as may in your opinion merit it, among others that of sending us a supply of hard Cash for the purpose of paying the recruits we have already Inlisted on this ground, & as much more as you can conveniently afford. I believe the number is somewhere between thirty & forty, and more Inlisting every day.

I have just recd. the Inclosed from the Marquis Lafayette. I would advise you to look to your own bay & River, but from Circumstances am rather of opinion the *Chesapeake* will be their point of Operation—they have Certainly sailed, & it is also said that the Cork fleet arrived the day before yesterday.

I have the honor to be,

with singular Esteem you Excellency's

most obt. & very Hume. Servt.

ANTY. WAYNE B. G.

Comms. the Pennsa. Line.

His Excellency Jos Reed Esqr.

N. B. is there not some design in Incumbering Pennsa. with a Regt. of artificers &c, &c, & Reducing your Operating army to Six Regiments *Connecticut* is not Intitled to it, but will be as powerful in the field as Pennsa. why should not they have a proportion of artificers, &c & you Eight Regiments of Infantry?—I dont like appearances.

Col. Danl. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Fort Pitt, Octr 17th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

In full confidence that a sufficient supply of Provisions would sooner or later be furnished for the Troops in this District as well as for such number of Militia as policy or the exigencies of affairs might render it necessary to call into action. I with a view to cut off the Wyandotts & other Indian Towns that were very troublesome to our settlements, called for a Draught from the Militia at three

different times, and was as often disappointed in obtaining Provisions, which with the unsettled state of the boundary between Pensylvania & Virginia has greatly discouraged the Inhabitants, and I apprehend given a handle to the Disaffected. I take the liberty to enclose copies of letters lately received from Colonels Beelor & Mc. Cleery purporting some of the above facts.*

The Troops are again without Provisions, my parties in the Country are as Industrious as Circumstances will admit, but the Inhabitants disappoint them by driving their Cattle into the Mountains; and they now threaten to rise in arms against them, whilst others threaten them with Writs & Passes, I do not however despair of obtaining a quantity of Flour; But conceive it will be next to an impossibillity to procure any considerable quantity of Beef or Pork, on this side the mountains, to lay up for the Winter Season, and it is but too likely that the prosecution of Compulsory means, will be productive of Bloodshed amongst our own Citizens.

The Delaware Chiefs with upwards of thirty warriors are come to aid me upon an Expedition, but as I have neither Bread nor Meat to give them, they will soon discover that it is not in my power to act offensively. They appear much dejected on account of the total want of goods, which they were promised in exchange for their peltry.

I have the honor to be
with perfect Respect Dear Sir,
your most Obedt Servt.,
DANIEL BRODHEAD.

P. S. As the Inhabitants are clamorous, it is probable they will make some unjust Representations, of our new mode of getting supplies, to the Honble Executive Council. Wherefore to convince you, that I mean to be as tender of them as possible, I have taken the liberty to inclose a copy of the Instructions I gave for taking Cattle, &c.

D. B.

Directed,
His Excelly Jos. Reed, Esqr.

DAVID S. FRANKS TO COUNCIL, 1780.

Robinsons House, 20th Oct., 1780.

Sir,

His Excellency the Commander in Chief has with great Generosity granted me a Court of Enquiry, and I have a few days since moved him to suffer the Court to go into an investigation of my Conduct whilst acting as Aid de Camp to Arnold at Philada, adverting par-

* See pages 583, 584.

ticularly to that Part on which a Scandalous Report of Perjury seems to be founded.

I need not urge to you Sir, the evil Effects such a Report may create to my Character, or my anxiety to remove them, as far as in me lays, and I trust you will be kind enough to forward any Paper or Copies of them now in the Possession of the Honble the Council which may seem to criminate me in the smallest degree. I am fully conscious of my own Innocence in this affair, and hope the Honorable the Executive Council will be so obliging as to give me every opportunity of clearing a Character which is my only support, by forwarding the Papers mentioned to His Excellency General Washington.

I am Sr, with Respect
Your very hum. Servant,
DAVd S. FRANKS.*

Directed,
Honbl T. Matlack, Esquire, Secy to The Honle the Executive Council State of Pennsylvania.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, October 20, 1780.
Circular.

Sir,

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed a Proclamation† recommending Thursday the seventh Day of December next to be observed as a Day of Thanksgiving & Prayer.

I have the honor to be
with the greatest respect
your Excellency's obedient humble Servant,
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

Directed,
His Excellency The President of Pennsylvania.

Wm. Hamilton to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Believe me Sir, it is with the deepest Regret that I now trouble you on the Subject of my Imprisonment, and more especially, since my addresses to Council. But the pressing necessity of the measure, and the almost inconceivable Difficulties which attend my Situation, will I trust apologize for me, on this occasion. My affairs notwithstanding every Effort in my power continue still in a very un-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 495, 496.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 516.

settled State *Here*, (unless those with whom I have Business will attend,) every Transaction must be managed by a third person; this occasions a variety of messages backward & forward, before any one piece of Business can be finished, and many persons with whom I have had Dealings either neglect, or do not chuse to attend me. The present Illness of my Brother, prevents that assistance which he would otherwise willingly afford me, and although he best knows the Circumstances of my Estate, I Can neither reach him, nor he me, to give the least advice to a person whose Ideas may be readily supposed in a very deranged State. The Age and Infirmities of my Mother and Grandmother (particularly the latter, who cannot be moved at all) and whose Estates, being personal, have so much suffered from the times, as to make them almost dependant on me; these I say, call for all my filial Duty and affection, they are nearest my Heart, and I would wish to be with them during the Remainder of the date allotted for my Departure and make such provisions for their future decent and comfortable Support as would be most agreeable to them, and easy to myself. This is scarce possible to be done whilst I remain in prison, and my Grandmother is too infirm to be brought hither.

My other Business, for the most part, lies on my Farm, where it is easy to suppose more may be done with my personal presence in one Hour than in three by directions from hence.

These Sir, are but Hints of the various Inconveniences, I lay under in the Conduct of my affairs. Others will doubtless suggest themselves to your Honor, on a moments Reflection, they urge me to this address they persuade me to suppose, that the Indulgence of my personal Liberty under such Restraint (as to place) as may be thought requisite under proper security & untill the sailing of the vessel cannot be productive of any publick prejudice and on the other hand will be exceedingly useful. The favor will be deeply felt, and it may be fully relied on, not in the slightest Instance abused.

Shall I venture to hope from the humanity of your Disposition for your kind Interposition with the honourable the Council in this matter.

I have the Honor to be with the most perfect

Respect Your Honble most obed. Servt.

W. HAMILTON.*

New Gaol, October 22^d, 1780.

* See Col. Rec, Vol. XII, pp. 495, 499, 502, 503, 520.

Col. Sam. Rea to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Mountbethel, October 24, 1780.

May it please your Excellency,

Since my last of the 17th ult. having recd. Orders from Council to send one class of Militia, having previously called upon the delinquents of the several Battalliens, there was drawn forth almost contrary to expection to the number of 104 Privates exclusive of Officers, they are under Lieut. Col. Gieger are stationed along the verge of the Frontiers from Berks County to the Wind Gap and the 7 months men, from thence at the most exposed places up Delaware, and we have reserved the next Class in Tour to relieve those now on duty when their time expires which will be about the 20th of next month which I hope Council may approve I Beg leave to inform Council that a great uneasiness prevails among the Volunteers and Militia that they not hitherto received any part of their Pay & that some of them suffer for want of shoes and other necessarys. And I am afraid that the Fines even when received will not be in proportion to their demands. I hope some means may be devised to relieve them. Yesterday I had appointed the Sub. Lieuts. to meet in order to setle Acct, but they seem unwilling to setle, the price of wheat at £20 ℔ Bushel nor could we certainly know whether or not the Assembly at their last Sessions had limited the price (as reported) here and being throng with some other unavoidable Business we adjourned until we could be better informed which hath frustrated my Intention of sending their Accts at this time.

Col. Baliort informs me that he had Given Council a relation of the killed and wounded he had found Burned near Neskipeki as he was at the place of action his Accts must be as near the truth as any I could procure, tho since that Time Lieut. Myers, who was taken by the enemy in that unhappy action hath made his escape from the savages & reports that ensign Scoby and one Private was taken with him and that the party consisted of 30 Indians and one white savage, that they had 13 Scalps along with them that several of them were wounded & suposes some killed.

I have called upon Col. Wetzel the former Lieut. for the Publick Arms he informs me by Letter that the State Armouror Mr. Tyler had kept the Acct thereof Mr. Tyler met me yesterday & says that he hath made monthly returns to Council, of his proceeding which I shall be glad to find to be fact.

I am your Excellencys most obedient &
Very Humble Servt.

To His Excellency Joseph Read, Esqr. Presd.

SAML. REA, Lieut.

Brig. Gen. Wayne to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp, at Totowa, 25th Octbr, '80.

Dear Sir,

I did myself the honor to address you the 17th Instant, & took the liberty to ask for a quantity of thread and needles, to be forwarded by Mr Little; but as he came away without them, I must beg leave to reiterate my request, & desire that they may be sent on with all possible dispatch, as every day adds to our distress, & renders an Immediate supply of these articles Indispensably necessary.

I believe no Army before this was ever put to such shifts, in order to have even the appearance of uniformity—when the Charge of the Pennsa Division devolved on me, after the removal of Genl. St. Clair to the command of the left wing, I thought of an expedient of reducing the heterogenius of new, old, cock'd & floped hats & pieces of hats, to Infantry Caps, in which we succeeded very well—by making three decent caps out of one tolerable & two very ordinary hats, to which we added, as an embellishment, a white plume & a Comb of flowing red hair.

We now shall try the experiment of making three short Coats out of three old tattered long ones. I must acknowledge they would answer much better for the Spring than fall; but without something done in this way, we shall be naked in the course of two or three weeks;—nor will even this expedient answer longer than Christmas.

For God sake, use every possible means to procure Cloathing for both officers & men by that time, at furthest.

I must again request you to forward a Quantity of Hard Cash for the purpose of Recruiting; if we had it at this period, we could Inlist a Considerable number of the new Levies, who are much preferable to any which Col. Nicola sends us; nor shod we be Imposed on by Deserters.—I have already mentioned my Ideas very fully on this subject, the 17th Ultimo.

Capt. Finney, the bearer of this, waits on your Excellency in behalf of the Captains and Subns of the line—I am Confident that every reasonable requisition will be attended to—and I believe the Gentlemen will make no other.

I could not deny the Indulgence of permitting one of their body to attend the Honbl. Council—it is not a time to tamper with their feelings;—you'l have the goodness to pardon this freedom, and believe me, with much Esteem,

Your Excellency's most Obt
Hum. Servt,
ANT'Y WAYNE.

Directed,—On public Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, prest of Pennsylvania.

☞ Capt. Finney.

* See p. 587.

JOHN VANDEREN, JUN., TO COL. JACOB MORGAN, 1780.

Philad^a, Oct. 26th, 1780.

Sir,

Yours of yesterday was handed to me, wherein you say "you are Ordered by the Supreme Executive Council of this State, to demand an immediate Account of the Flour delivered for the Use of the Army, and if the whole Amount of the money advanced is not delivered, to furnish Council with the reasons why it is not, agreeable to the proposals made by me;" In answer to which I must Inform you, that to the Amount of every farthing of the money I have received of the Commodore will be delivered this week at this place and Easton, tho' not agreeable to the Proposals made by me and accepted by Council. The proposals you allude to you know Council engaged, or at least the Commodore under their sanction, to advance Four hundred and ninety five thousand pounds, in the Course of fourteen days, being the fourth part; (which I was to have been kept in advance) you likewise must remember I did not Obligate myself to deliver a single Barrel till such advance was completed, which has never yet been done. The Honorable the Vice President & the Chief Justice may Remember they wrote a Letter to the Governor of the Delaware State, to permit five thousand bushels of wheat to pass through his Government, for the Use of the Army, which in part has been happily Effected. The whole quantity was detained for two weeks for want of the whole Sum of money, which amounted to £168,750, at which time I had not half that Sum in my hands, but every moment expected to receive it from the Commodore, agreeable to the Contract; but in that I was disappointed. I have Delivered Flour at Easton and Philadelphia, to the Amount of £120, 000, as ℔ Account. The ballance, £67, 000, I expect to deliver every moment from the Brandywine Mills, were part of the 5000 Bushels are grinding, which would have been Delivered ere this, but a long and severe fit of Illness has put the matter a few days back.

I need not point out to you the Treatment I have received, and what I have suffered with regard to the Contract in Question, as they must appear Obvious to you.

I am, Sir,

your hble. servt.,

JOHN VANDEREN, Jun.

Directed,

Col. Jacob Morgan, Prst.

Gen'l Wayne to Col. Brodhead, 1780.

Camp at Totowa, 2nd Nov^r, 1780.

Dear Colonel,

I have it in command from His Exc^y General Washington to transmit to you the inclosed copy of the new arrangement of the army, by which you'l find that the quota of Infantry for the State of Pennsylvania are reduced to six Regiments, consequently we shall have a number of supernumerary field Officers and Captains many of whom may chuse to retire from the field and accept of the Hon'ble provision made for them by sundry acts of Congress, particularly those of the 3rd and twenty first Ult^o, which is giving Several brave and worthy Officers (whose local circumstances would not admit of their continuing much longer in the service) an opportunity of returning to the rank of citizens with a genteel annuity for life and an exemption from petty Offices and Militia duty yet eligible to any post of honor or profit in the civil Line that their Country may think proper to bestow without interfering with their half pay, or other emoluments.

But as this arrangement and incorporation of Regiments will take on the first of January next, it will be indispensibly necessary that a return of those Officers who wish to continue in service belonging to the eighth Regiment with the dates of their Commissions, together with the non-Commissioned Officers and privates inlisted for the War should be transmitted to this Army previous to that period as we can not go on with the arrangement without it. You will therefore please to forward the Return with all possible dispatch by Lieutenant McFarlin who is sent express on the occasion.

I mentioned field Officers and Captains only because we shall be in want of Subalterns therefore none of that Class can be permitted to retire with those emoluments nor can any other Officer after the first day of January, (unless he be a supernumerary) so that this is the Crisis to determine.

Will you be so obliging as to present my best and kindest wishes to the Gentlemen under your Command and believe me with sincere esteem,

Your most obedient
and very humble servant,
ANT^Y WAYNE,
Command^g the Penn. Line at Camp.

P. S. It will be necessary for every Officer who continues in the service as well as those who chuse to retire to sign their names to the return to the end that they may be properly registered.

I had forgot to mention that by a Resolve of Congress of the third Ultimo, those Officers who retire are intitled to the same lands

and emoluments at the termination of the War—as those who will continue exclusive of their half pay for life in specie or an equivalent.

ANTHONY WAYNE.

Indorsed,—From General Wayne to Colonel Brodhead.

Col. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Fort Pitt, Novr 2nd, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I am still disappointed of making an Expedition against the Hostile Indians. Provissions are collected but slowly, and they scarcely answer our Daily consumption.

Mr. Perry was with me to Day, and promised a small supply of Flour, but he conceives that meat cannot be had on this side of the mountains, to answer half the Demand.

In my last I informed you that near forty of the friendly Delaware Indians had Come to aid me against the Hostile Tribes. Their number has since exceeded forty, and I believe I could have called out near an hundred. But as upwards of forty men from the neighbourhood of Hannah's Town, have attempted to destroy them whilst they consider themselves under our Protection, it may not be an easy matter to call them out again, notwithstanding they were prevented from executing their unmanly intention, by a guard of regular Soldiers posted for the Indians protection.

I was not a little surprized to find the late Captains Irwin & Jack, Lieut^t Brownlee & Ensign Guthrey concern'd in this base attempt. I suppose the women & children were to suffer an equal Carnage with the men.

I am this moment informed that Mr. Thomas Smallman has made a secret & clandestine purchase of an Island in the Ohio River, two miles below this Fort, Commonly called McKee's Island. I hear his Deed is signed by two of the Delaware Chiefs. I know such purchases are against an ancient law of our State. But as I am almost a Stranger to the present code of Laws, am at a loss to determine the criminality of the purchaser, or in what manner he is to be punished for the Crime, and as it doubtless is within our Charter, shall be thankfull for your directions respecting it.

It is a long time since I had the Honor of a line from you. Perhaps my frequent scrawls are rather troublesome, and if they are, a hint will be sufficient.

I should be happy to wait upon you at Philad^a and to proceed to Head Quarters to settle a plan for the operations of the next Campaign as far as relates to my Command, But I am grown so poor that I cannot at the present extravagant Rates, bear the Expences of so long a Journey.

I have the Honor to be with perfect respect & esteem
your Excellencies most Obd^t Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Directed,—T his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq.

Resignation of Justices, 1780.

To his Excellency the President & the Honourable the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Whereas by the thirtieth Section of the Plan or Frame of Government for the State of Pennsylvania, no Justice of the Peace shall sit in the General Assembly unless he first resign his Commission, —and whereas We the Subscribers Justices of the Peace, have been elected representatives in assembly, We do therefore by these presents resign our office of Justices of the Peace as Witness our hands this third day of november 1780.

EVAN EVANS,
DAVID McKINNEY.*

Resignation of Stephen Duncan, J. P. 1780.

Philada. 8 Nov. 1780.

Sir,

Having been honoured by my Fellow Citizens with being elected one of their Representatives in Assembly, it becomes a duty in me in order to qualify myself to Serve them in that Capacity, to resign my office of Treasurer of the County of Cumberland, which I now beg leave to do,

and have the honor to be,

your Excellency's & the Councils Humble Servt.

STEPHEN DUNCAN.†

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esq, President &c, of Pennsa. Present.

C. J. McKean to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Inclosed you have the transcript of the Record of the conviction and attainder of a certain Ralph Morden, of Northampton County, for treason. We finished the courts of Oyer & terminer, & Nisi Prius at Easton, last night; there were several indictments tried, but no other conviction for a capital offence.

It was thought expedient by the Judges to send the record,

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 526.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 526.

respecting Morden, to Council as soon as practicable. We have just halted here to dine on our way to Reading.

I am, dear Sir,

with the most perfect esteem,

Your most obedient servant,

THO. M'KEAN.*

Bethlehem, Novem^r 3^d, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, &c., At Philadelphia.

Favored by Cap^n Craig.

Gen. Washington to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Head Quarters, Prekaness, 4th Novem^r, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I have received information from New York, that a person who is called Andrew George Fustner, and who is Brother in law to Rankin, formerly of York County, comes frequently out as a Spy by way of Stark River, thro' Jersey, and from thence to Lancaster.

He left New York the 27th ult^o, and is probably at this time upon that Business. Your Excellency may perhaps, from the foregoing Clue, have him intercepted upon some of his Visits.

There is also another person who goes by the feigned name of John Staria, or the Irish Dutchman, because he speaks both languages, who goes constantly between New York and Lancaster, accompanied by a lusty old man called John Smith, who serves as a guide to him. They lately carried 12 or 14 Recruits from Lancaster.

I shall be happy should the above description be sufficient to lead to the discovery of another of the many Engines of this sort, which the enemy have at work against us.

I have the honor to be,

with great Regard, Dear Sir,

y^r most ob^t Servt,

G^o WASHINGTON.

His Excellency Governor Reed.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 535.

Major Wm. Armstrong to Pres. Reed, 1780.

To His Excellency Jos^h Reed, Esqr, & Hon^bl the Supreme Executive Council.

Wm Armstrong presents his compliments, requesting the further sum of Fifteen thous^d Pounds, in order to defray part of the expences of the Fortifications on Mud Island, & Oblige

your most Obed^t & very Hbl. Ser^t,

W. A.*

Novr 6th, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Jos^h Reed, Esqr.

Major Henry Lee, Junr. to Pres. Reed, 1780.

I have the honor to address your Excellency & council for supplys of clothing for the underwritten gentlemen officers in my Legion. Confident that their distress & their destination south, will have due weight, & will give success to this application, I have only to beg the utmost dispatch, as the troops move to morrow.

I have the honor to be,

with the most perfect respect,

your Excelly's obd. servt.,

HENRY LEE, junr.

Lieut. Com. Dpt.

7th Novr., '80.

Capt. James Armstrong,
Doctor Matthew Irvin,
Capt. Henry Archer,
Ensign George Taylor,
Adjutant John Gadon,
Ensign Manning.

Directed,

His Excellency Governor Reed.

Capt. Armstrong.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 528—granted.

Col. Samuel Miles to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

Philad^a, Novemb^r 7th, 1780.

Upon an Estimate of the forage wanting for this post, I found the Quantity of Hay deposited here by the State purchasers, would fall vastly short of the Consumption; in consequence of which I made application for a sum of money, for the purpose of purchasing Hay, and have obtained a warrant for the same, but am informed, that by a Law of the State, Quarter Masters cannot purchase without permission first had of the Honorable the Executive Council. I shall, therefore, be obliged to your Excellency, if you will lay the matter before Council, & grant me such permission.

I am your Excellencies most Obed.,
& most Humble serv^t,
SAMUEL MILES, D. Q. M.
for Penny^a.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, Novr 7, 1780.

Sir,

The Board have the Honour to lay before Council a Copy of a Letter received from Col. Z. Butler, commanding at Wioming. We shall be happy to be informed of any thing within the Knowledge of the Honble Council on this Subject.

We have the Honour to be
with very sincere Esteem & Respect,
your obed Serv^ts,
RICHARD PETERS,
By Order.

Directed,

On public Service.
His Excellency President Reed.
(War Office.)

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 543.

Col. Zebulon Butler to Board of War, 1780.

Wyoming, October 26, 1780.

Sir,

By this you will be informed that nothing material has happened here since my last respecting Enemy; my scouting parties make no discovery of them nor their signs. Our Situation respecting provision is bad enough at present; have had a party down the River about three weeks after Flour. A letter from Col^o Hunter is their return, which is as follows :—

Sir,—I rec^d instructions from His Excellency Governor Reed, ordering me to stop, for the use of the post at Sunbury, all supplies drawn from the Com^rs of the Counties of Lancaster, York & Cumberland for the Garrison at Wyoming, and in consequence of said Order I have stop^d two Boats loaded with Flour, and in the meantime sent an express to Mr. Steward acquainting what I had done, that he might write me in what manner he procured this Flour, and for the men to stay here until I rec^d an Answer from Mr. Steward.

I am sir,

your most Hum. Servt,

SAML. HUNTER, Lt N. C.

Sunbury, Oct. 23^d, 1780.

Col^o Zeb^n Butler.

The above Flour was likely procured by way of some of the Commissaries, but carried to a Mill & packed, & Brought fifty miles by soldiers I sent for that purpose; and the Garrison has not had either Flour or meal for above Twenty days, only pounded Corn and no meat more than two days in six, and that borrowed of the Inhabitants. But with respect to Bread, I expect we shall have a Mill going in six days. A purchasing Commissary may purchase near enough Wheat at this place to supply the Garrison; Capt. Schott will be able to inform further.

I am sir,

your mo. Obtt. Ser^t,

ZEBU^n BUTLER, Col^o Com^d.

Directed,

Presid^t of the Board of War.

C. Wirtz to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lancaster, Novem^r 8th, 1780.

Sir,

I have received a Letter from Capt. Hubley, and also one from John Weitzell, A. C. of Issues at Sunbury, requesting me in the most pressing Terms to forward them a supply of Beef, otherwise the men will be obliged to leave their Stations; as I have no orders for the supply of that Post I beg you will be pleased to inform me by the very first Opportunity how I am to act respecting the same. In order that there may not be too great a Delay I have sent out to purchase Cattle in the upper part of the County, so that they may be handy to the Frontiers and speedily forwarded if Council think it adviseable.

I have the Honor
to be Sir, y^r most Ob^d
& very Hum. Servt,
CHRISTIAN WIRTZ, C. P. L. C.

Directed,

(Public.)

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, Presid^t of the State of Penn^a, Philadelphia.

—

John Weitzel to Major C. Wirtz, 1780.

Sunbury, Novr. 3d, 1780.

Sir:

The Militia are arrived here & no Cattle at this post, nor is there any Likely hood of getting any, unless we get them from you. I would therefore beg that you would do all in your power to forward some as soon as possible; if you have any Liquor please to forward some, as we have not had one drop here these Six Months.

I am your
most Obed^t ser^t,
JN. WEITZEL, A. C. of P.

Directed,

Publick.

Maj^r Christ^n Wertz, Com^r of Purch^s, Lancaster.

Col. Ephraim Blaine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philad^a, 9th November, 1780.

Sir,

I have one thousand Head of Cattle to Slaughter for Barrelling, and want a sufficient quantity of Salt immediately for that purpose; in addition to the above, three thousand Bushels will be absolutely necessary to Supply the Posts in this State and Jersey without a moment's delay.

Your Excellency will please to remember that Council was informed of the reduced State of our Magazines some time ago, & the necessity there was of laying in a Supply of Salt. I now take the liberty of informing you that I have no other remedy but by applying to you & Council for an immediate Supply of that necessary Article. The Season being so far advanced will admit of no delay as the Cattle are daily loosing Beef.

I have reason to believe the Pennsylvania Line with some others of the Army will be Cantooned upon the Communication between Corryel's Ferry & North River the ensuing Winter.—In Order to prevent such distresses as they experienced going into Quarters last Year for want of necessary Subsistence, a Magazine of Flour and some Beef ought to be laid in at Trenton & Easton before the severity of the Winter; have therefore to request your Excellency & Council to adopt such Measures as will throw in a supply of the Provisions required from this State to answer the above purpose, without which it will be impossible to secure a regular Supply for them.

I have the Honor to be
very respectfully your Excellency's
most Obt. & very Hble. Servt.,
EPH. BLAINE, C. G. P.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Read, Esquire, Present.

Resolutions of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, Novr 10th, 1780.

The board of Admiralty to whom was referred a letter of the 1st, from the Minister of France, setting forth the several inconveniencies resulting from the abuse the British make of papers or clearances they take in American prizes, delivered in a report, whereupon

Resolved, That it be and hereby is recommended to the Governors or Presidents of the several States who grant Commissions for private Vessels of War, that on the back of the Commission there

be inserted a minute description of the persons of the Captain and his Lieutenant, with their age, stature, complexion, &c., respectively certified by the Governor or president under his seal of Office.

That where Commissions, commonly called letters of Marque and reprisals, are granted to armed Vessels going on mercantile voyages, the Master and his Chief Mate be required to undersign their clearances in the presence of the Naval Officer of the port, who is also to insert on the back of the clearance a minute description of the persons of the Master and his Mate, with their age, stature, complexion, &c., respectively, and to certify the same under his signature & seal of Office.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

M. Oster (French Vice Consul) to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphie le 10 9bre 1780.

Monsieur!

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer, que les Batimens du Roi L'Intéressant, et la Marie Française, sont au moment de partir pour se rendre à l'armée, avec chacun, un chargement de provisions mentionnées aux deux Etats ci-joints certifiés de moi; et que pour pouvoir mettre à la voille, ils ont besoin d'une permission de l'honorable Conseil suprême, que je prends la liberté de solliciter auprès de Votre Excellence.

Je suis avec un très parfait respect,

Monsieur,

Votre très humble et très
obéissant serviteur

OSTER.

A Son Excellence Monsieur le Président Reed.

Col. Timothy Pickering, Q. M. G., to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp Totowa, Novr 12, 1780.

Sir,

Colo Moylan's regiment of light dragoons being under marching orders for Winter Quarters, and the upper part of Lancaster county being judged the most eligible for the purpose, I have written to Col. Philip Marsteller, Assistant Quarter Master for that county, to use his endeavours to procure both forage and quarters for them. This I am aware must be a work of difficulty, as no magazines are

*See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 543.

formed and we are destitute of money. The farmers I fear will not consent to furnish either quarters or forage from an apprehension that the day of payment will be very distant. Yet the horses must be supported. I mentioned the obvious consequence—that the regiment must (as they have done in Jersey during the present campaign,) provide for themselves. Nevertheless I have urged his trying all other means peaceably to obtain what is indispensably necessary. A copy of my letter I do myself the honour to inclose. And I request your Excellency's interposition to cause every necessary assistance to be given to Colº Marsteller & to all other quarter masters in the State alike circumstanced.

Colº Moylan has at present about a hundred and seventy dragoon horses. Many of these are quite unfit for service, and will be turned over to the quarter masters for waggon and riding horses when recruited. Should his regiment be completed he will want a great number of horses to mount his recruits—probably two hundred. These I have not the smallest prospect of being able to purchase. And as the regiment is assigned to the state of Pennsylvania as a part of its quota, I am naturally led to your Excellency as its patron. You are so perfectly acquainted with the condition of the public finances it is unnecessary for me to observe, that if the regiment be not furnished with horses by means provided by the state, it must, at the opening of the next campaign, take the field on foot.

I have the honour
to be with great respect,
your Excellency's most obedt servant,
TIM. PICKERING, Q. M. G.*

Directed,

(Public service.)

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Indorsed,

Read Nov. 17, 1780. Nov. 20 Referred to Mr. J. Smith & Mr. Wynkoop.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 545.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Circular.

Philadelphia, November 13, 1780.

Sir,

Congress having received Information from the Honorable the Minister of France of Inconveniencies & Injuries received by our Allies, resulting from the abuse the British make of Papers & Clearances they take in American Prizes, by personating the Officers & Commanders named in such Papers, being fully acquainted with the Language & Manners of our Officers & Seamen, &c.

In Compliance with the request of the Minister of France, Congress have adopted the enclosed resolution in order to detect such Abuses in future; and I am to request your Excellency's Attention to the necessary Measures for carrying the same into effectual Execution.*

I have the Honor to be
with the highest respect
your Excellency's most obedient servant,
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.*

Directed,
His Excellency The President of Pennsylvania.

Rev. Peter Miller to Pres. Reed, 1780.

To his Excellency Joseph Read, President.

Sir,

The Bearer hereof, John Rein, employ'd me to procure him an access to your Favour. The Proceedings of Government have convinc'd me that the Intention is to make every Individual happy; moved by this I recommend him with all due Submission for mercy, as having already paid dear enough for his Folly, and wish besides, that God and the Father of mercy would strengthen your Excellency in your arduous Task.

In which Sense I remain
your Excellency's obedient servant,
PETER MILLER.

Ephrata, the 15th of Nov. 1780.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 543.

Col. Rich'd Butler to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Camp Totowa, Novr 11th, 1780.

Sir,

It gives me pain to Repeat Applications for the same thing. I have wrote the Board of War several times, And Once before this to your Excellency & Council on the same subject to no Purpose; the want of a Regular mode being made Publick to the Army for this Particular buisiness may be the Cause of some trouble and disappointment.

I always understood that an Application & Recommendation to the Supreme Executive Council of the State was Requisite for the Appointment of Officers in the first Instance, this I have always done, but till latterally knew not that Similar Application must be made in the Case of Regimental Promotion after the First Apptm^t, however, this I have lately been told by the board of war, & took the liberty to Address your Excellency & Council the 2d Inst^t by the hand of Col. Johnston, who Informs me the 6th Inst^t that all these applications must Come through the Chanel of A General Officer; it never was a pain to me to acquiesce in any Rule that was adopted, At the same time I Cannot help thinking it a kind of Restriction on the Hon^r & Dignity of an Officer Intrusted with the Charge & Command of a Reg^t, to find his Certificate of so little Consequence that it cannot be Credited in this Case.

It must also Render an officer the less diligent in searching for young gentlemen to fill Vacancies, when he finds such obstacles in the way of their Promotion, As it is much Easier for him to Comm^d what is put in by government than to Subject himself to an Opinion that it is doing him an obligation to find good servants for the Publick, It is also attended with Ill Consiquences to keep the Promotions back, as it sours the mind of young Gentlemen who know they are Intitled to higher Rank than they bear & Cannot obtain it without great Difficulty & is often the Cause of Complaint & Reflection on the Comd^g officer of the Reg^t.

I am thus Explicit not through Chagrin or disappointm^t on my own Account, but because I see the service like to suffer by the loss of some worthy & brilliant young officers who have no other motive for remaining than their wish to serve their Country and to acquire hon^r to themselves.

I again do myself the honour to Transmit your Excellency & Council the Exact state of the officers of my Reg^t, Certified by General Wayne, & hope this will Remove the difficulty that has attended the Promotion of Ensig^n Smith, who is an excellent young officer, & has serv^d the Campaign with great Cleverness. The other officer (Ensg^n McKnight) has been but a short time in service, there-

fore think in justice to other Ensigns in the army his Lieutenancy may with Propriety be Prolong[d].

I have the Honour to be with great

Respect your Excellency's most obed[t] Hbl Sv[t],

RICH[d] BUTLER, Co[l] 9th

Penns[a] Reg[t].

Directed,

Publick Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, Presid[t] of the State of Penns[a] Philad[a].

Col. Sam' Miles to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philad[a], Nov[r] 16th, 1780.

Sir,

When I wrote to your Excellency a few days ago* for permission to purchase Hay, I apprehended it lay with Council to grant such Liberty, but that not being the case, I have requested Mr. Dehaven to wait upon the Hon[ble] the Council, & they would Oblige the Public by appointing him to purchase Hay, he will do it without charging the state any Commission.

I am your Excellencies

most obed[t] Humble Serv[t],

SAM. MILES, D. Q. M.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., Presid[t] of Pennsy[a].

Resolution of Council, 1780.

Col. Miles, D. Q. Master, having represented to this Board that the present stock of Hay will be insufficient for Continental Use for the Winter, & having requested in order to obviate Difficulties arising from the Law that Peter Dehaven might be appointed to procure an additional Quantity, he charging the State no Commission.

Resolved, That he be appointed a Commissioner for the Purchase of Hay only.

* See page 600.

Pres. Reed to Pres. of Congress, 1780.

Sir,

On a former Occasion I had the Honour to address you on the Exportation of Provisions from the State of Delaware* while the Embargo from this Port was rigorously observed. If the Flour so exported was the Produce of the State of Delaware it would be of little Consequence, but it is well known that much the greater Part of these Exports, probably four fifths, are the Produce of Pennsylvania. This Conduct is the more extraordinary as the Commissary Gen. informs us that State has not furnished a single Barrell of the Quantity required by Congress—The Injury done to the Trade of this Place as well as to the Supply of the Army will not permit us any longer to be unconcerned Spectators, & Congress must be too just & reasonable to expect a Restriction to be observed here which only tends to distress this State without any public Benefit—There are six or seven Vessels belonging to this City now loading at Wilmington, in the Delaware State. Supplies designed for the Army & actually paid for by this State are diverted from their destination, so that unless some more efficacious method to enforce the Recommendations of Congress in this Respect can be adopted we see no Prospect of affording any farther Supply to the Army.

I must also beg Leave to observe to your Excell^y that the Continuance of the Embargo in this State entirely depends on the Observation of similar Restrictions in the adjoining States, so that we shall be obliged in a very short time to revoke our Prohibition unless an effectual Remedy can be speedily obtained.

I have the Honour, &c.

Pres. Reed to Assembly, 1780.

Sir,

The Treasurers of Chester & York not having furnished me with the states of their respective offices till yesterday added to the necessary attention I am obliged to pay to current Business will I fear make it difficult to prepare the written Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Police & Affairs of the state so soon as I could wish or as it may be necessary for the Information of the House. But I could after a little Conference with the other Gentleman & a Revisal of the Notes & Papers make a verbal Communication which might be of some service to the Hon. House at this time & I could then more accurately state it in writing at more Leisure. If this is acceptable to the House we shall be ready to wait on them any Day next Week on previous Notice, except Monday on which day the Council are invited to dine with the Minister of France. I have the Honour to be with great Respect.

Sir, your Obed & very

Hble Serv.

* See pages 10, 229, 266.

Camp at Totoway, Novemb^r 18th, 1780.

Sir,

As a Reduction of the Regiments belonging to the state of Pennsylvania is soon to take place, by which several officers will be obliged to go out, but for whom half pay is reserved and some other advantages, we beg leave to mention to your Excellency the case of a number of Gentlemen who, having been prisoners with the enemy, and only lately exchanged, will be in the same situation as those who will be reduced with respect to the being obliged to leave the army, no vacancys in consequence of former Incorporations, being left to which they can now succeed but who seem not to be entitled by the terms of the act of Congress to the Reward allowed to the others. This we conceive to have happened thro' accident or inadvertence; for we cannot imagine it could be intended to add the mortification of having their services and sufferings overlooked to the Miseries of a long and rigorous Captivity.

We are very sensible of the Desire your Excellency has always manifested to save the Gentlemen in that unfortunate predicament and the attention you have paid to their rights, which has led us to give you the trouble of this at this time, and to refer Major Murray who will deliver it, particularly to you; certain that, if they or we have mistaken the sense of Congress, you will put us to rights, and if otherwise that you will use your influence that Justice may be done them by procuring them to be put on the same foot as the other reduced officers.

We are with the utmost Respect Sir,
You most obedient Humble Servt.

Ja^s Chambers, Col.
1 P. Regt.
George Tudor, Major
5th Penn. Reg^t.
J. Moore, Major
1st Pen. Reg^t.
T. Robinson, L^t Co^l.
1st Pen^l. Reg.
Caleb North, Lt Col.
T. Craig, Colonel
3^d P. Reg^t.
Fra^s. Johnston, Colonel
5th P. Regiment.
Jos. Harmar, Lt Col,
7th P. R.

A^r. S^t. CLAIR, M. G^l.*
Ant'y Wayne, B. G.
W. Stewart, Col^o.
2nd R^t.
Wm. Butler, Lt Col^o Com^t
4th Penn^a Reg^t.
Sam. Hay, L^t Co^l.
10th P. R.
James Hamilton, Major
2nd Reg^t.
W. Alexander, Major
3rd Penn^a Reg^t.
J. Talbot, Major
6th P. R.
Ad^m Hubley, J^r Col^o Com^t
11th P. R^t.
P. Mentges, Lt Col.
5th P. Reg^t

Directed,—His Excellency, Governor Reed.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 545, 550.

Sec'y. Matlack to David Franks, 1780.

(Copy.)
Philadelphia, Novem^r 18th, 1780.

Sir,

I am directed to inclose you a pass for yourself and daughter to the City of New York. The Council are much surprised that you still remain in this city, and hope that you will immediately depart this state, agreeable to their late order, otherwise measures will be taken to compel you to comply with the same.

I am Sir,

Your very Humble serv't.

(Signed,) JAMES TRIMBLE.*
for T. Matlack, Sec^y.

Directed,
To Mr David Franks.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1780.

Sir,

I duly received your favour of the 7th Inst. inclosing Col. Butlers† Letter & do avow the stopping Provisions purchased in the Counties of Lancaster York & Cumberland with the Money of this state destined for the Garrison at Wyoming; the measure has been approved unanimously in the Council, is pleasing to the Assembly & founded on a general Representation of the Inhabitants of the Frontier Counties of the State and for the Measure I beg Leave to assign the following Reasons.

First the Post at Wyoming is not in any Respect interesting to the United States & can only be considered as holding Possession of Territory disputed between this State and that of Connecticut & that after the latter has expressly declined submitting the Dispute to amicable Settlement by Congress agreeable to the Terms of Confederation.

Secondly.—The very great abuses that have been practised at that Post where Provisions have been issued to Settlers under the Denomination of Soldiers & any other Species of Encouragement given to Persons to settle in direct Violation of the Resolution of Congress of 1775 to which we aver no Regard has ever been paid.

Thirdly.—We think it unreasonable that we should have the Support of a Post thrown upon us not only hostile in its first formation but continued so ever since under the Command of Continental Officers who have seldom done duty, & are personally interested in the land in Controversy taking every measure during the Dispute to establish

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 547. † See page 601.

their claims and extend their Settlement for we are authorized to say that every Officer (a small Party of the German Regem^t. excepted who claim to be of this State & are detained there Contrary to our Desires) is a Claimant of Lands under the Connecticut Title & who tho Commissioned as Continental Officers have never done their months Duty in the Continental Army since the Contest began.

Fourthly.—This Post in a military View can be considered in no other light than forming a Barrier against the Savages which Species of Defence has generally been deemed a duty of the State & Congress have for a long time ceased to give the State any Assistance we maintain Sundry Posts of this nature on the Frontier & if Connecticut does not chuse to do the same Pennsylvania will in this Instance ease the United States of this Expence by paying a Garrison & Supporting it at the Charge of this State only.

We acknowledge Gen. Washington in his Enumeration of the Posts to be supplied from this State mentioned Wyoming but as we apprehend he is not fully acquainted with the Circumstances of Wyoming & has since withdrawn all the Continental Troops from the Defence of our Frontier we are persuaded he is too just & reasonable to expect we should wholly support a Post on a Frontier claimed by another State while we are left alone to defend ourselves.

Fifthly.—We are well assured that the Produce of the Settlement at Wyoming is quite sufficient for the supply without drawing it at such a distance but the Inhabitants do not chuse to furnish the Garrison while it can be drawn from the Counties below ment^d. without expense or Charge to them or giving Congress a Credit.

Sixthly.—The Distress of the Post at Sunbury & its Dependencies where we are obliged to have a Garrison of 200 men in a Country so desolate that it does not afford a subsistence to the few wretched Inhabitants left there. By the Commissaries mentioned in Col. Butlers letter the State Commissaries are to be understood, of whom it seems reasonably expected they should supply their own State first.

These are the Reasons which have induced the Authority of this State to interfere & stay the Provisions referred to in your Letter & we doubt not they will prove fully satisfactory.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

Resignation of J. D. Sergeant Esq. 1780.

Philadelphia, Nov. 20, 1780.

Sir,

Inclosed is my Commission* as Attorney G^l. which I beg leave to resign.

At the same Time that I acknowledge the highest obligations to the Government, I hope they will do me the Justice to believe that I have at heart endeavoured to serve them with Fidelity in Times

* See it below.

of more Difficulty than there is Reason to expect they will meet with again.

The Office I have held is fatiguing especially as there is very little Reward to Compensate the Labour. I think it would promote the publick Service if the Legislature were to increase the Fees on Indictments. At present they are such as are hardly worth collecting, and my Successor, who ever he may be, will find himself tempted in a short Time, rather to wish to avoid the Business than to meet it with cheerfulness if some thing be not done.

I hope ever to avoid the shameful inconsistency of being drawn into any kind of opposition to a Cause, which I have had the Honour of contributing to support;—and therefore any little Assistance I may be able to afford to my Successor* or to the Government may be depended upon.

I have the Honour to be Your Excellency's
most Obed^t. & very Hb^le. Servt.
JONA D. SERGEANT.

His Excell^y. Presid^t. Reed.

COMMISSION OF J. D. SERGEANT NOW SURRENDERED, 1777.

In the name and by the authority of the Freemen of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania The Supreme Executive Council of the said Common Wealth.

To Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant Esquire Greeting.

We reposing especial trust and confidence in your integrity prudence and ability have appointed you the said Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant to be Attorney General of the State of Pennsylvania. You are therefore, by these presents, commissioned to be Attorney General of the said State; to have, hold exercise, and enjoy the office of Attorney General of the state aforesaid in as large and ample manner as any Attorney General hath held, or of right ought to have held and enjoyed the same; with all the rights, salaries, fees, profits, priviledges and emoluments thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining. In testimony whereof we have caused the seal of the said Common-Wealth to be here unto affixed.

Given at Lancaster this first day of November anno domini one thousand seven hundred and seventy seven.

THOS. WHARTON, Jr. Prest.
Attest.
T. MATLACK, Secy.

Indorsed.

Enrolled in the Rolls office for the State of Pennsylvania in Commission & letter of Attorney Book No. 1. page 91, the 7th day of June 1779. Certified under my hand & seal of office this 7th June, 779.
JOHN MORRIS, Jr., Mag. Rot.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 548. He was succeeded by Wm. Bradford, Jr., Esq., Nov. 28, 1780.—See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 560.

Charles Pettit to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, 20th Nov. 1780.

Sir,

I wish it were in my power to give your Excellency the requisite information respecting the Debts due from the Quarter Masters Department at Easton; but at present it is not. I have frequently & for many months past called upon Col. Hooper for such account & have from time to time been led to expect I should receive it; some circumstances of accounts yet remaining unsettled having been made the ground of delay. I am again, by a circular letter in pressing terms calling on all the Deputies for returns of the Debts they owe, & will write particularly to the late Deputy at the Post of Easton for his. In the mean time if he or any one under him has shewn any disrespect, tho it should be far short of contempt, to Your Excellency or the Government over which you preside I have not a wish even to extenuate his fault or to screen him from Justice, on the contrary should rejoice that he might be made to repent of his Folly.

I have the honor to be with great respect,

Your Excellency's most obedt. hum. Servt.

CHAS. PETTIT, A. Q. M. Gen.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State.

Pres. Reed to Minister of France, 1780.

Sir,

I was honoured with your Excellency's Favour this evening upon the Affairs of Mr. Holker. After the Conversation last Evening with Mr. Marbois I did not intend to have troubled you farther with so delicate & disagreeable a Subject, & especially as I now find Mr. Holker does not stand in the same Dependance on your Excelly as on your Predecessor. A farther Discussion of this Subject would exceed the Limits of a Letter & would if necessary be more proper for a Conversation. I am so unhappy as to differ from your Excelly in the propriety in troubling the American Minister with a Matter of particular & not general Concern, & think Dr. Franklin might well excuse himself from acting in the Detail of particular State—As Mr. Holker has been returned for some Time & has not thought proper to offer any Explanations I do not conceive it my duty to seek them, in this he is quite consistent, as it is a fresh Proof of the Estimation in which he holds the Authority of Pennsylvania—If such Conduct shall be found to conciliate the Affection of the People

of America to his Country & to promote the Interests of the Alliance & make him a useful acceptable Officer, I shall be happy to acknowledge my Mistake.

I am, Sir,

your Obed. Hble Serv.

Indorsed,

1780, Nov. 20th, His Exc^y the President, to His Exc^y the Minister of France.

DAVID FRANKS TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Sir,

The Contents of the Letter whereof the inclosed is a Copy rec'd on Saturday last gave me deep Concern. After the Indulgence shewn me by Council on account of my Indisposition I should be extremely ungrateful to trespass beyond its Limits.

My Arm has continued and yet is in a high state of Inflamation, and necessarily dress'd daily. This principally;—the unsettled state of my affairs, & the want of the passport added has occasioned the delay.

Being apprehensive that a report raised and circulated that I had depreciated the Currency by purchase of Specie may have given rise to prejudice against me with the Hon'ble Council, as the best Evidence in my power of the falsity of the report, I inclose my affidavit on that Subject.

Observing that the pass is only for myself and daughter, and unwilling in the Slightest degree to violate it, I must beg to trouble your Excellency to have it extended to a Servant Woman, and my necessary Baggage & that I may be allowed till Thursday for my departure.

I have the Honor to be with Respect

your Excellency's

most obedient Servt,

DAVID FRANKS.*

Philad^a, 21st Novem^r, 1780.

Directed.

His Excellency Jos. Reed, Esqr.

* See Col. Rec. Vol. XII., p. 547, & p. 611 of this.

Deposition of David Franks, 1780.

City of Philad^a, ss.

David Franks, of the City of Philad^a, Mercht, being duly sworn deposeth & saith that he hath not by himself or any person to his Knowledge or with his Consent purchased, exchanged or bartered any Sum or Sums of Money in Specie for or with paper money of any kind.

DAVID FRANKS.

Sworn Novr 20th, 1780, Before me,

BENJAMIN PASCHALL.

Convention at Hartford, Conn., to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Hartford, Nov. 22d, 1780.

Sir,

By the direction of the Convention held at this Place I have the Honour to transmit to your Excellency their Proceedings with a Request that you will please to lay them before the Legislature of your State.

As the measures we have recommended to the States by whose Appointment we met will depend for their Efficacy upon the Concurrence of the other States—We conceive it our Duty to Communicate them Immediately in order that if they should be deemed Eligible they might with the greater dispatch be carried into Effect.

I remain with the most sincere Wishes for the Success of our Common Cause and the Peace & Prosperity of our Sister States

your Excellencys

most Obedient servant,

(By order of the Convention)

WILLIAM BRADFORD, President.

Directed,

His Excellency the President of the State of Pensylvania.

DAVID FRANKS TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Wednesday Evening, 22d Novr, 1780.

Sir,

The Carriage I had engaged for my Journey to New York met with an accident in coming to Town this Evening. As this will prevent me from using it to morrow, I think it my duty to acquaint your Excellency with it immediately, that I may not appear to trespass in the smallest degree upon the Indulgence of the honorable the Council. As I am in every other respect prepared to depart, this unforeseen obstruction will appear to your Excellency I hope in its proper light. The instant the waggon is put into travelling order the council may rely upon my setting out, if the plea for my present unavoidable Delay is admitted.

I have the honor to be yr Excellency's
most obedient & most hble servt,
DAVID FRANKS.*

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President.

PRES. REED TO DAVID FRANKS, 1780.

Philada, November 23rd, 1780.

Sir,

Your letter of yesterday was received and read in Council and I am directed to acquaint you, that the Council expect you will be ready to set out on your Journey to New York by to-morrow morning at farthest as it is their opinion the excuse is a very frivolous one, and therefore have agreed to grant no further indulgence.

MAJOR MCPHERSON TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Sir,

I have the honor to address your Excellency, and the Supreme Executive Council, once more, on the subject of my being adopted by the State; my pretensions to which I had the honor to make known to your Excellency and the Honble Council, when last in Philadelphia, and which from the Patronage your Excellency and the Honble Council, were pleased to honor me with on my arrival from New York and since, I am led to believe will be thought sufficient—permit me to mention to your Excellency and the Honble

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 547.

Council, that in the other States, Natives holding Brevet Commissions, have been admitted to participate every advantage as if Officers of the Line, without any kind of distinction, several instances of which General St. Clair who does me the honor to present this can inform your Excellency of.

I have the honor to be,

with the most perfect respect

Your Excellencys most obedient Servt,

W. MACPHERSON.

Camp, 24th Nov., 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Col. Samuel Miles to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadª, Novr 25th, 1780.

Sir,

The procuring of wood for this post, is a matter that has given me much concern for some months past, and I have used every means in my power to obtain a certain supply for the winter, but find it impossible to do it without Cash, which the Public Treasury cannot at present furnish.—On mentioning the difficulty I labored under, to some Gentlemen a few days ago, I was inform'd that there was a tract of land about four miles from the City (from which the poor were supply'd with wood last winter,) belonging to some persons in England, and that people of all Complexions were cutting & distroying the timber at their pleasure, no person have Authority to prevent them; and was advised to apply for Permission to cut as much wood off this tract as could be spared without Injury to the place as a plantation. If the Honorable the Council would be pleased to grant me, in behalf of the public, this Authority, I shall take all the care I can to prevent frauds, and keep an exact account of the wood, and as soon as money can be procured for that purpose, pay the Value to such person as shall have a right to receive it.

I beg leave also to mention to your Excellency, that the toll for Crossing the bridge over Schuylkill, from the depreciation of the money, is become so trifling, that the tenant there assures me it is with difficulty he can support his family, and should any accident happen to the Bridge it would be impossible for him to maintain boats for any length of time at the present low rates of the ferriage. I submit the propriety of laying those objects before Council to your

Excellencies Judgment, & have no doubt but every thing that is right will be done.

I have the Honor to be

your Excellencies most Obed.

& most Humble Serv.,

SAM^l MILES, D. Q. M.,

for Pennsy^a.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of Pennsylvania.

LETTERS RESPECTING PRISONERS OF WAR AT NEW YORK, 1780.

Copy.

New York, Novr 25, 1780.

Sir,

Being appointed by the American Officers prisoners of War on Long Island to go out to solicit supplies from their respective states to discharge the Debts already contracted by them, as well as for their more decent support during their captivity; and judging it probable that it will be more convenient to some of the states to send in produce than specie, we have to request that Permission may be granted to send into New York the undermentioned articles, (Viz.,) Grain of all kinds, Flour, Beef, Pork, Live Stock, Onions, Lumber, Boards, Scantling, Iron, Hemp, Pitch & Tar, to be consign'd to such Publick agent as may be appointed, and disposed of by him, the monies arising from the sales to be applied as above.

Shou'd we be indulged in our request, we wish to know on what terms the above Articles may be Vended, that we may communicate them to our States respectively, and that we may be permitted to take out with us blank pasports for the Vessels that may be sent from the more remote States in order to expedite the supply.

We are &c.

(Sign'd,) JAMES IRVINE, B. G.
GEORGE MATTHEWS, Col.
JOHN ELY, Col.

Directed,

The Honourable And'w Elliott, Esqr.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 558.

Copy.

New York, 29th November, 1780.

Gentlemen,

I immediately laid your letter of the 25th Instant, before Lt Genl Robeson, Major Genl Philips and Brigadier Genl Birch. Enclosed is a letter from those Gentlemen with an answer to the request you was pleased to make through me, which I flatter myself may prove useful to many individuals.

As several of the articles which his Excellency Sir Henry Clinton agrees to admit from the different Provinces are under Regulated Prices, above which they are not allowed to be sold, I have for your further information annexed a list of the same.

I am with due respect, Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient Humble Serv't.

(Sign'd,) AND^w ELLIOT.

Sup^r Genl.

Wheat,	26 shill^s	Currency	℔ Bush^l.
Wheat flour,	80	ditto.	℔ C^wt.
Rye,	10	ditto.	℔ Bushel.
Rye Meal,	30	ditto.	℔ C^wt.
Indian Corn,	10	ditto.	℔ Bush^l.
Indian Meal,	28	ditto.	℔ C^wt.
Buckwheat,	7	ditto	℔ Bush^l.
Buckw^t meal,	26	ditto.	℔ C^wt.

Directed,

Brig^r Gen. Irvine, Col^n. George Matthews & Col. John Ely.

—

Copy.

New York, 29 November, 1780.

Gentlemen,

Mr Elliot the Superintendent General having laid before us your letter to him dated the 25th of this month, in which you request that Permission may be granted for the different Provinces to send into New York articles of their produce (in lieu of Specie) to be disposed of, to discharge the Debts already contracted by the American officers, Prisoners of war on Long Island, as well as for their more decent support during their Captivity; We have to inform you, that his Excellency Sir Henry Clinton is pleased to grant your request, Viz. that grain of all kinds, Flour, Beef, Pork, Live Stock, Onions and other Roots, Lumber, Boards, Scantling, Hemp, Pitch, Tar, and also Iron, Cyder and Hay may be sent to New York, from the different Provinces, and disposed of for the purposes you propose, under the enclosed Regulations and Restrictions.

We have further to add that his Excellency Sir Henry Clinton offers to direct the pay Master Gen. of the Convention Troops in Virginia, David Geddis, Esqr to receive any sum of money in Specie for the use of said Troops, and to give Receipts and Drafts for the same on the Paymaster Gen. in New York, which being produc'd by the Commissary that may be sent in by Gen. Washington shall be acknowledged. And that to reimburse such persons who may thus advance sums of money, permission shall be granted from Sir Henry Clinton to the said Commissary to purchase to that amount, articles of British and East India manufactures (woolen cloths, Stockings, Hats, Shoes, Boots, Arms, Ammunition and Medicines excepted) which with proper permissions will be allowed to be shiped on board any Licensed vessels that may arrive here from Virginia with produce as mentioned above.

Lists of the British and East India Articles proposed to be purchased by the Commissary must be laid before Lt General Robeson for his approbation.

We are with due respect, Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient humble servants.

(Sign'd) JAMES ROBERTSON,
W. PHILIPS, M. Genl.
S. BIRCH, B. Genl. & Commandant
AND^w ELLIOT, Sup^r Genl.

Directed,

Brig^r Genl Irvine, Co^l Geo. Matthews & Col. John Ely.

Indorsed,

Copy of Sundry Letters relative to sending Produce into N. York for the benefit of the American Prisoners.

Secy. Matlack to William Bradford Jr. Esq, 1780.

Philad^a, Nov. 27, 1780.

Sir,

Inclosed is a commission to you as Attorney Gen. of the State. It is necessary before you enter upon the office that you take the oaths required by the constitution; which may be done before the Judges or either of them. I congratulate you on this appointment the more honorable to you as it appears to give general satisfaction.

And am, Your most obedient servant.

T. M. Sec'y.

Directed,

To Wm. Bradford, Jr. Esqr.

Pres. Reed to Pres'ts of Common Pleas, 1780.

In Council,

Philad^a, November 27th, 1780.

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Commission as President of the Courts of Common Pleas, Q^r Sessions & Orphans Courts when you may happen to be present.

The Happiness of the People the good Order of Government & the Advancement of Religion & Virtue so much depend on the due Administration of Justice that we are perswaded you will think yourself usefully & honourably employed while promoting these valuable Purposes. The Example of the Magistrates as well in publick as private Life is highly influential to these Ends, & as the Office of administering Justice is truly honourable we hope none called to this important Trust will debase it by sordid & lucrative Views either accumulating Business or increasing the Fees beyond what the Law allows. A due Decorum & Solemnity in Court greatly tends to draw the Reverence of the People & in all cases where Oaths or Affirmations are administered should be much regarded. A punctual Attendance of the Magistrates & the Officers of the Court from the Sheriff to the Constable & also of Jurymen should not be overlook'd, and tho' we hope that from the Knowledge & Liberality of the Gentlemen in the Profession of the Law no improper Liberties will be taken with the Bench yet we think it our Duty to mention it as one of the essential Qualifications of a Judge to support & preserve the Dignity of his Office on all Occasions. The Revenues of the State depend in some Instances on the Care & Attention of the Magistrates as in the Case of Excise & Tavern Licenses; in these Respects we recommend them to attention & where a Neglect of the Governm^t is manifested by Non-Payment of the publick Dues that the Magistrates would refuse their Recommendation. We also seriously recommend to the Consideration of the Bench a Revisal of the Taverns which were allways too numerous for the good Accomodation of Travellers or the good Order & Morality of the People, & a severe Punishment of those selling Liquors without legal auth^y. A due Regard to the Peace of Families & the Education of Youth will lead you to suppress all that are not necessary for the Accomodation of Travellers or Meetings of Publick Business.

The Depreciation of our Money has undoubtedly promoted a great Depreciation of Morals & particularly in lessening the Penalties imposed on Offenders against the Laws that will not be in the Power of the Magistracy to remedy where the Penalties are assigned by the Law, but in all these Cases where the Discretion of the Court is interested we would recommend to you that while you avoid excessive Fines & rigorous Punishments you pay a due Regard to the real Value of Money. To inculcate on all occasions Reverence for the

Laws & Respect for publick Authority is so naturally the Duty of Magistrates that we need only mention it. To give ready Assistance & Advice to all Persons in Office executing the Laws & other publick Measures for the Support & Supply of the Army is also an indispensable Duty at this Time and as the present great Contest is likely to end in the happy Establishment of a Government founded on the true Principles of Liberty your Influence & Example will be well employed in encouraging & inculcating Principles of Catholicism mutual Forbearance & Kindness to each other on all occasions, civil & religious. Wishing you & your Brethren much Happiness & Success in your publick & private Characters, I remain,

Sir, Your Obt. Hble Serv.*

Indorsed,

Nov. 27th, 1780. Circular letter to the Presidents of the Courts of Common Pleas, &c. in the different Counties.

Wm. Scott to Pres. Reed, 1780.

York, Novr 27th, 1780.

May it Pleas your Excellency:

Sir,

We have been endeavouring to find and take some of our Deserted Volunteers, which has delay^d sending forward the few we had on hand; the one we had in Prison when your Excellency was with us, we sent with an Officer who had the charge of Prisoners from Carlisle, and I'm told he Escaped on the way, in Irons. The few that are here, will March this day or to morrow. Colonel Lee, on his leaveing this Place, drew Orders on me to pay Money to the People with whome he lodged in Town, for Subsistance; wou^d be glad to know if I am to Pay those bills, and in what manner, as they are drawn for Specie, or the Value thereof.

With Capt Hahn (the bearer) will be an Opertunity of Sending the Order to our Treasurer, which I Sent with your Excellency, to be endorsed for Payment here.

The Justices have Setled the quota of suplyes for our County, and with my next returns will send an acc^t of our success.

I am your Excellency's

Obedient Humb. Servt.,

Wm SCOTT.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President in Council, Philadelphia.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 547, 549.

Pres. Reed to Gov. Wm. Livingston, 1780.

Sir,

I received your Favour respecting Mr Joel,* & am sorry I troubled your Excellcy on that Occasion, as I did not know he had been guilty of any Indecency to the State, or any Gentlemen in Office under it. I could readily agree to a great Part of the Description of his Character in other Respects, but as upon such Occasions, & such Times, I do not apprehend the utmost Purity of Character is to be expected, I ventured to continue him on the Line in which I recommended him to your Excellency; & the Success has fully justified the Measure, as it is entirely thro' him that one of the most wicked, artful Gangs of Villains that ever existed, has been detected & broken up—We have now about 8 in Irons, all engaged in a Correspondence with New York, & assisting the Enemy in various Ways. Joel's Address brought Stansbury within our Reach, & Stansbury's Papers opened up the Lumber Trade with New York, which enabled us to seize the Captains who came here under an Exchange; their Papers made further Discoveries, & this Day one of them was prevailed on to make an ample Confession, which I enclose your Excellcy, together with some Papers on the Subject. R. J. Smith, of Moores Town, has been very busy with Stansbury, as appears by the Examination of the Papers. When I wrote this Afternoon, I forgot to mention his Name. As I doubt whether there has been any Act of Treason committed in this State, we can only proceed against them as Persons of dissolute Character, which I should rather do as to Stansbury & Cummins, of this State, than that they should have a Tryal in Jersey, & perhaps, by Influence or Address, get off & come back to injure & insult us a second Time—Your Excellcys good Judgment can determine how far there is a Probability of their falling under the Correction of the Laws of your State; & if you think it expedient, they shall be delivered over as you may direct, to stand a Tryal in Jersey. If Ball's Price's & Saltar's Papers could be found, I make no Doubt important Discoveries might be made; it is from Papers we have been able principally to dissect the Villainy here.

I shall be glad to hear from your Excellcy as soon as possible, & am, with due Esteem, Sir,

Your Obed. Hbbl. Servt.,

—

Major Howell, of Cohansey,
Dr Bennard— Sea Shore.
John Thomas,
Moses Mullinn,
Joseph Devinney,
} of Egg Harbour, went in Black's Vessel.
Atkinson, of Moores Town, came out with Stilman & Shaw.
Joseph Ridgley & James Bell, Owners of the Schooner Shark.

* See page 576.

Ebenezer Tucker, } Of Egg Harbour Hands—on board the
Thomas Adams, } Schooner Shark.
Tolbert, Master of the Sloop Hawke, loaded with Lumber, Tobacco
Moses Kempton.*

Indorsed,
1780, Nov. 27.

List of Papers sent to his Excellency William Livingston, Esq., Governor of New Jersey, 1780.

List of Papers sent to His Excellency William Livingston, Esqr., Govr of New Jersey.

N° 1. Letter & invoice, 29 Nov., 1778.
" 2. Saltar to Stansbury, 13 Nov., 1780.
" 3. Ball to Stansbury, 13 Nov., 1780.
" 4. Stansbury to , 22nd do.
" 5. Shaw to Howell, 29 Aug., 1780.
" 6. R. Smith to Stansbury, 4 Jan'y, 1780.
" 7. Saltar to Stansbury, 27 July, 1779.
" 8. do. do., 2 May, 1780.
" 9. Stansbury, under the signature of J. Sterling, to Jos. Wardell —enclosing a letter to Silas Barton (that is Sam. Bunting,) with list of goods & Acc^t sales.
" 10. Capt. Drew's Certificate to Tim. Wilson.
" 11. Conrow's pass to Stansbury.
" 12. Willets' rec^t for ¼ sloop Success.
" 13. L. Saltar's Act. with John Stevens.
" 14 } Sloop Hawkes' Acco^ts.
" 15 }
" 16. Kempton's Act., Hawke, junr., wth Stansbury.
" 17. Cost of Hawk & Swallow.
" 18. J. Saltar's draft on J. Saltar.
" 19. List of Owners.

Pres. Reed to Speaker of Assembly, 1780.

Sir,

Among the Recommendations of Mr. Searle, when he went abroad on publick Business, the Council addressed one to the Hon. Mr. Adams one of the Ministers of the United States from whom we have received the Inclosed Letters, As Mr. Searle is now arrived & there is the greatest Reason to believe he will succeed, we must call the serious Attention of the Hon. House to provide Means to

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 553.

support the Engagements into which he may probably enter. In this as well as other Transactions of the same Nature, the public Faith is not only sacredly pledged but the Names of Gentlemen are held forth in such a Manner as must give them the greatest Concern, should there be any Failure or unnecessary Delay in performing what the late House so solemnly promised. An Opp^r of writing Mr. Searle will present in a few Days which we hope will be improved so as to enable the President to inform him what he has to depend on, as the Business is of such a Nature as to require it should be honourably supported or immediately relinquished. We also take this Occasion to lay before the Hon. House the Terms on which Mr. Searle is gone and we doubt not his Fidelity & Success will be equal to his Disinterestedness, as he has ever shown himself an honest Servant of the publick, & a sincere Friend to the Constitution, & Government of the State.

I have the Honour to be Sir,

Your obed. Hble. Serv.

J. REED.

Indorsed,

Novr. 27th, 1780.

Restrictions and Regulations Respecting Supplies to Prisoners at N. Y. 1780.

Copy.

Restrictions and Regulations under which His Excellency Sir Henry Clinton will allow the following Articles of American produce to be sent into New York, from the different Provinces, to be disposed of by the Commissary that may be appointed by General Washington to reside in New York.

The Moneys arising from the Sales to be applied by the Commissary under the direction of Lieut. Gen. Robertson, towards the discharge of the debts already Contracted by the American Officers, Prisoners of war on Long Island, as well as for their more decent support during their Captivity.

Should the produce sent in by any of the Provinces amount to more than what may be necessary to answer the above purposes of their respective officers; such overplus the Commissary will be allowed to invest in such articles of British and East India Manufactures, as may be approv'd of by Lt. General Robertson who will grant the necessary Permissions for the carrying out of the same; as the Commissary will be under Oath, not to send out Specie On any account.

Grain and roots of all sorts, Hay & Cyder to be sold out of the Vessels in such quantities as may be directed by the Commandant at the Current prices, but never to exceed the regulated Prices.

Flour to be sold by the Barrel out of the Vessels, at the average prices of that article as it may then be fixed by the Chamber of Commerce for the Regulating of the assize of bread, but never to exceed the Regulated Price.

Live Stock, Beef, Pork, Timber, Boards, Scantling, Lumber, Hemp, Pitch, Tar and Iron, to be sold at Publick Sale, without any limitation of Price.

When any of the above mentioned articles are to be sent from the Provinces, the Commissary at New York must be Informed of the name, build and Burthen of the Vessel that is to carry them the Masters name, the number of the Crew, and the quality of the Cargo that he may obtain from Lieutenant General Robertson the necessary papers and Permissions to enable her to proceed to New York.

Every Vessel employed in this way must Carry a white Flag.

The Captain of all such Vessels must go on board the first guard Ship, and receive on board an officer who will deliver his Letter for the Commissary to the Commandant, who will order a Guard on board to prevent the Crew Landing or having any intercourse with the Inhabitants.

The Captains and Crews of such Vessels, are neither to carry out, or bring in any letters but the Commissarys respecting the Cargo.

When the Vessel is unloaded proper Permission will be given for her departure.

When Live Cattle are to be drove in by Kings bridge, the Commissary must apply to Lt. General Robertson for a protection for bringing the same to East Chester, or to Colonel Philips house, which protection must mention the names of the drivers, and the number and kind of Cattle; to which places the said Commissary must upon a day to be appointed for that purpose, send out proper Persons to drive the same in from the above mentioned Places, where the first Drivers are to be discharged and the Protection that was granted for the Drove to be delivered to the persons sent out by the Commissary.

(Signed,)

JAMES ROBERTSON,
W. PHILIPS Major General.
S. BIRCH, Brigr. General,
& Commandant,
AND. ELLIOT, Supr. Gene.

New York, 29 November, 1780.

Minister of France to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

When you did me the honor to come to my house, with the Vice President of the state, your Excellency told me that you was able to produce many proofs to support the complaints which you had to make against Mr. Holker, & particularly a Letter from him to Arnold which gives occasion to believe that they had some commercial Interests or Connections together, I understood you that when Mr. Holker should return here you would like to have a Conference with him I being present and that you would explain your grounds of offence & hear his Justifications.

Having heard nothing further of the affair I supposed that the persons who had mentioned the proofs to you had not furnished you with them, & I thought myself obliged to communicate the business to Mr. Holker, & acquaint him with your Suspicions, recommending it to him to conduct himself with the Respect which he ought to the first Magistrate, & to take no part in the political Affairs which unhappily divide the Citizens, of this State.

Mr. Marbois having informed me of the Conversation which he had with you yesterday I thought I could not too soon acquaint you, that I am ready when you judge proper, to come to your house, with Mr. Holker, & to hear the Charges that you may have to prefer against him hoping that actuated by similar Motives, you will also hear what reasons he may have to urge in his defence.

If after such Conversation you shall not think that he has justified himself & that there are matters which in my quality of Minister of France, I can judge of, I will do it immediately.

As to any objects with respect to which we may not concur in sentiment, you will be so good as to forward your Complaints to your Minister in France, & I on my part will transmit Mr. Holkers defence.

You may rest assured that I shall conduct myself with the same Impartiality in this business, which I hope you have observed me to maintain in every thing that has passed in this State since I have had the honor to reside in it.

I am with Consideration & Respect,

Sir your very humble & very obedient Servant,

The Chevalier of Luzerne.

Indorsed,

November 30th, 1780.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, Novr. 30th, 1780.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several States, immediately to inform the Commissary General and deputy Commissary of the names of their principal Agent or Commissioner respectively for supplying the Army, and to oblige them to give information from time to time to the Commissary Genl or the dep'y Commissary with the Southern Army as the case may be, of their prospects, & how far they shall be able to comply with their requisitions.

That the live Stock, to be furnished by the several States, be delivered to such store keepers, within each State at such times, and in such quantities as the Commissary Genl or the deputy Commissary shall direct, under the regulations contained in the Act of Congress of the 15th July last, for the delivery of all other public property.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

James Duane to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, 30th November, 1780.

Sir,

I am obliged to your Excellency for your good opinion. I shall never be in danger of forfeiting it by mal-treating a civil officer.

Some of the Delegates of Virginia and New York hired the House in which we live: and it is altogether appropriated to the Accomodation of Mr Maddison Mr Mott Mr Sharp and myself—This morning I was hastily called home from my Duty in Congress. The house was entered and beset by a deputy sheriff and his men so Finding that they had no criminal process to execute, I forwarned them at their peril, not to enter my apartment or touch any of my Effects. I explained our publick Characters Priviledges and exclusive Right to occupy that House: and immediately repaired to my Duty in Congress. The officer tho' at liberty, after the Caution I had given him, to use his own Discretion, thought fit to follow and renew the Conversation; the purport of which, on my part, was no more than to recommend him to take advice before he proceeded further: for he appeared to me to be ignorant of his Duty. Nothing then can be more untrue than that I offered him the slightest injury by word or action. From a Complaint so destitute of foundation, is it not to be suspected that this attempt to execute a Process against Objects, of which neither the officer nor any with him, appear'd to have the least knowledge was calculated for the mischievous purpose of exciting disturbance and giving affront?

Permit me, Sir, to add, that in my opinion the Reasons for protecting in all nations, the Persons Houses & Effects of foreign Ambassadors apply with at least equal Force to the Members who constitute the general Government of the United States. Shall their apartments be intruded into, their papers be exposed, and their Effects seized in a civil Case too with which they have no connection Shall they be stripped of every accomodation, and disqualified from pursuing the great Duties of their Mission? Shall there be no redress but thro' a tedious Course of Law in which at the Expense of their Independance, and of the Sovreignty represented in their persons, they must submit to be suitors? It is easy to see that a Government thus constituted must be incompetent to the great Purposes of publick safety.

I have the honour to be with great respect

Sir, your Excelleney's

most Obedient humble Servant,

JA^s DUANE.

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

Col. Ephraim Blaine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philada. 1st December, 1780.

Sir,

By a resolution of Congress passed last Tuesday all the Artificers in this State are ordered to Carlisle, and I am directed to prepare a Magazine of Salt Provisions for their Support. The quantity of Flour and Rye Spirits which you have directed the Commissioners of that County to Purchase will be sufficient for their Consumption, but Meat will be immediately wanting; have therefore to request your Excellency & Council not only to make Provision for that Post, but add two hundred Barrels as a Magazine for the use of Northumberland County in case the Indians should make any attempt upon the Frontier settlements.

Underneath you have an Estimate of the quantity of Provisions necessary for the State Consumption until the 1st of July next—this ought immediately to be procured while Beef is plenty; if delayed it will cost the State one third more.

Your Excellency will see the necessity of the measure, and I make no doubt adopt Ways & means to answer the demand.

I have the Honor

to be very respectfully

your Excellencies most Obed^t serv^t,

EPH. BLAINE, C. G. P.

Estimate of Provisions necessary for the Consumption at the Posts in this State.

Posts.	Pounds fresh Beef for sixty Days.	Bbls. salt Provisions for 152 Days.
Philadelphia,	60,000	760
Pittsburgh, &c.,	27,000	342
Carlisle,	12,000	152
ditto for Cumberland,		200
Lancaster,	15,000	190
Reading,		50
Easton,	6,000	76
	120,000	1,770

Commencing the 1st Instant and ending 30 June, 1781.

Philada., 1 December, 1780.

N. B. The Consumption at the Post of Carlisle will be one half more than mentioned above, owing to the Artificers being Order'd there from Philada. since the Estimate was made.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Read, Esquire, Present.

Wm. West, Jr., to Pres. Reed, 1780.

December 1, 1780.

Sir,

In consequence of a Proclamation issued against me by the Executive Council of this State. I am now arrived in this Place and am ready to wait on Council when they think proper.

I am with due Respect

your mo^t hble Servant,

W: WEST, Jun'r.*

Directed,

To His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 558, and p. 639 of this.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, Decr 2d, 1780.

Sir,

The Board are directed by Congress to have all the Artificers in Philadelphia sent to Carlisle, which will induce a Necessity of immediate supplies of Provisions being collected at that Post capable of subsisting from 250 to 300 Men, Officers included. The services of the Artificers are exceedingly wanted to prepare for the next Campaign. They have been frequently idle for Want of Provisions, whereby much Loss & Dissappointment have ensued. We have directed the Commissary General of Purchases to take measures for preventing the like Inconveniencies for the future by laying up ample supplies in the Magazines. He informs us that he has no other Means of doing it than by calling in the Purchases for the State of Pennsilvania. As the season is so far advanced that there is Danger of the Susquehannah being filled with Ice, & the Passage over the same interrupted, & the Artificers cannot prudently be ordered to Carlisle until the Board are ascertained of there being Provisions at the Post, we are induced to request your Excellency & the Honble. Council to give pointed Orders to the proper Officer to lay in an immediate supply of Provisions at Carlisle agreeable to the Request of the Commissary General of Purchases.

We have the Honor to be
with the greatest Respect
your very obed. servant,
RICHARD PETERS.
By Order.

Directed,
On Public Service.
His Excellency The President of Pennsilvania.
(War Office.)

Saml. Hunter to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sunbury, December 2d, 1780.

Sir,

Agreeable to your Orders to me, dated the 14th of October last, I have stoped some Flower that was drawn from the Commissioners of Cumberland County for the use of the Post at Wyomin. Suppose it has created me Enimys in that Quarter, nevertheless I intend to Act up to your Orders untill Countermanded. It seems a little strange to me that they can be supplied with Provisions at that Post when we cannot get any from these Countys, as you will see

by the inclosed Copy of a letter I Received leatly from Col. Butler, Commanding at Wyomin. I would be Very desireous your Excellency would inform me how I shall beheave in Regard of these stores Col. Butler makes mention of is Ordered there by Congress. I could wish with all my heart the dispute between this state and Connecticut was amicably settled, and as Easy a way as could be fallen uppon to bring about this matter would be to have a Regiment of the Pennsylvania line stationed there, and those belonging to Connecticut call'd of to Camp, as there is some of our own troops there alredy, twelve of Col. Procters men and twenty or thirty of Shots's Core, so that there might be a probability of Garrisoning that Post by Troops belonging to our own State; as I am informed there is encouragement given by the inhabitants of Wyomin for more settlers to go there to be under the Goverment of Connecticut, which will enable them in the End to contend with us as to property. Captain Robinson makes but poor Progress in Recruteing his Company of Rangers; he has got but seven as yet, and tells me he cannot get any more for the Bounty he is allowed to offer. As others Recruteing for the Continental service gives three half Johanes's he would be desireous to know if Council would allow him to offer the same Bounty to them he Recrutes dureing the war.

The Lancaster Militia that is now doing duty here their times will Expire the 17th Inst.; (and they deserve Honor, both Officers and Privets, for their Good beheavour in the County;) as some small Posts of Consequence to us will be left vacant when they march off I would be desireous to know if your Excellency would Give me Orders to Garrison them with some of our own militia in case no more is Ordered here from some of the interiour Countys this winter.

I am Sr

with every sentiment of Esteem

your Excellency's most obedt

& very Humbe Servt,

SAM'L HUNTER, L. N. C.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia.

By Col. North.

COL. ZEBULON BUTLER TO COL. SAMUEL HUNTER, 1780.

Garrison Wyomin, 25th Nov. 1780.

Sir,

This waits on you to know if your Orders with Repect to stoping Provisions comeing to this post continues in force. We have leatly Received one Hundred Head of Cattle from Pennsylvania by Order

of Congress for the use of this post, and an Order on the Commissioners of Cumberland County for fourty Barrels of Flower and for some Liq^rs which I Expect to send for soon provideing it can come, but it will be needless to send if you must stop it. Your answer by the bearer, and let me know what I may depend on, (as the Season of the year Requires heast in Procuring Provisions for this Post,) will serve the Publick & much oblige

y^r Hum^e Servt,

ZEBULON BUTLER, Col. Comd.

Directed,

Publick Service.

Col^l Saml Hunter, L. N. C., at Sunbury.

Express.

N. B. The above is a true Copy of what Col. Butler writes me.

S. H.

Pres. Reed to Gov. Livingston, 1780.

Sir,

Among the Papers transmitted your Excell^y this Week was the Information of James Steelman voluntarily given me last Sunday—in the Beginning of the Week it was reduced to form & on Thursday last he attended again—it was read to him & he proposed some Alterations & Additions not very material, these were made, the whole was agreed to, & he was about qualifying to it when I was suddenly called off & he was taken back to Prison. As the Matter was in this forwardness & an Express offered to go to Trenton, I sent it among the other Papers, not expecting he would have varied or hesitated—But this Day being brought before us he scruples to swear to it, neither will he point out the Alterations he would have made, but was requested to draw up his own State of the Matter in writing, which I shall inclose if sent in Time to go by this Opp^y. But I thought it my Duty to inform your Excell^y immediately of the Matter. I must also add that Mr. Ball has been at the Ferry & Richd Price in Town yesterday, which may perhaps account for this Conduct, and more especially as they seem to be too much countenanced by some Persons in the City.

I am Sir,

your most Obed. Hbbl. Serv.,

JOS. REED.

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, Decr 4th, 1780.

Resolved,

That Thomas Smith and Richard Bache be appointed Commissioners on the part of the United States,—either of them to endorse the Bills that shall be emitted by the State of Pensylvania pursuant to the Resolution of Congress of the 18th of March last.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Circular.

Philadelphia, December 4, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed, the Copy of an Act of Congress of the 30th Ult^o, recommending to the several States immediately to inform the Commissary General (Coll. Ephraim Blaine) or the Deputy Commsssary, that is where he acts to the Southward, of the Names of the principal Agent or Commissioner in the respective States for supplying the Army, and to oblige them to give Information from Time to Time to the Commissary General, or his Deputy with the southern Army as the Case may be, of their Prospects of complying with the requisitions made to them or the respective States.

The live Stock to be furnished by the several States, is to be delivered to such Store keepers within each State at such Times & in such Quantities as the Commissary General or Deputy Commissary shall direct, under the regulations of Congress of the 15th of July last.

I have the Honor to be,
with every Sentiment of Esteem & respect,
your Excellency's
most obedt & most hble Servant,
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.*

Directed,

His Excellency the President of Pennsylvania.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 568.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 568.

Pres. Reed to Gen. Armstrong, &c., 1780.

Gentlemen,

I have understood with no small surprise that some Persons in Carlisle have represented that when the Commissioners were at that Place I intimated in Conversation that the Lots & other Estate formerly belonging to the Proprietaries were open to the Occupancy of any Persons who might chuse to locate them, to be paid for hereafter—And in Consequence a Number of Persons have taken Possession of Lots & Lands in & about the Town, And also that the Militia were to be paid for a whole Tour of Duty tho they were not in Service more than half the Time. I totally disclaim such Sentiments as equally false in themselves & injurious to me, & am sure none such fell from me in Conversation or otherwise, my Opinion being totally contrary, and I think upon observing some Intrusions near the Town Spot I mentioned to several Gentlemen my Opinion of them as such. Some Time after my Return a Person came down to me complaining that being drove off by the Indians he had built a small Hut on the Common, & that some Gentlemen of the Town were disturbing him. I absolutely refused to give him any Countenance, on the other Hand I told him that I very much approved the Conduct of the Gentlemen as doing Justice to the State & to themselves, & it is a Line in which I hope you will persevere. As so improper a Use was made of my Name on this Occasion I thought it my Duty to counteract it as soon as possible—& am

with much Esteem, Gent.,

your Obed. Hbbl. Servt.

Indorsed,

1780, Decr 4th, To General John Armstrong, John Montgomery, Esqr, and Colonel John Davis.

Gov. Wm. Livingston to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Trenton, 5 Decr., 1780.

Sir,

I have received your Excellency's Letter* on the Subject of the commercial intercourse between several of the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania & New Jersey with the Enemy at New York, & the Papers & affidavits which accompanied it. Warrants were immediately issued ag^t the offenders in this State, & we hope to break up the knot.

Among the Delinquents committed in Philadelphia, I am informd there is one Joshua Bunting, a Citizen of this State, who is said by his Friends, who apply to me in his behalf, to be confined for an offence supposed to be committed in this State; & if so, I presume

* See page 624.

the Authority of Pennsylvania would have no objection to deliver him up to an officer of this State to be sent for that purpose. If he is charged with an offence perpetrated in your Commonwealth, he is doubtless amenable to it? & will your Excellency excuse me for desiring the favour of your acquainting me with the real circumstances of his case? I have the Honour to be, with great Respect,

Your Excellencies most obedient
& very humble Servt.,

WIL. LIVINGSTON.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., President of the Supreme executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, &c.—Philadelphia.

Col. Saml. Irwin to Pres. Reed, 1780.

May it please your Excellency:

Whereas, in the month of August, One thousand seven hundred and seventy Nine—When Fort Freeland, on the West Branch of the Susquehannah, fell into the hands of the British and Savage Enemies, a large Number of Men of my Battalion marched to the relief of the Frontiers of that Country, And pursued the Enemy as far as Wallace's Fort, and some to Eell Town, on Lay Comman—as the County and Sub-Lieutenants allowed us to give all possible encouragement to the Men that would turn out on that Alarming Emergency, and that they should be allowed a sufficient Compensation for their time & service out of their next Tour of Duty, if not a full Tour; and Whereas, Men of this Battalion has never received either of time or money, It has Caused a great deal of Uneasiness to the good people of this Battalion—I would begg leave to lay their Case before your Excellency and Council, hopeing you will Take them into consideration, as our present County & Sub-Lieutenants say they cannot do any thing in the matter as was before their Appointment or the present Law took place. It was agreed upon by a Majority of the Officers that was on that expedition, that three weeks would be a reasonable Compensation of Time for their Tour of Duty, as they marched on their own Expence. I will refer the Case to your Excellency & Councill, making no doubt but you will give every Indulgence to good men that may appear to you just and agreeable. I am, with all Respect, Sir, your Excellency's Verry Humble Servt,

SAM[l] IRWIN,
Col. 3 Batt., C. Co'y.

Sir,

I would further Crave the Attention of your Excellency and Council, in behalf of three of the withiu. mentioned Volunteers, who fell in the three last marching Clases to go out; they showed their Usual Willingness and Readiness to Espouse their Country's Cause, and enrolled themselves with the Marching Officers; Yet at the same time declared it out of their power to march for some few days after the Company sett off—But sent their Baggage along, and they would take horses some part of the Way; and as there would be but three in Company, they hoped to overtake the Rest of the Company in Lancaster or Philadelphia at furthest, and with their Captain's permission they stayed behind, and hearing the Militia was stoped in Lancaster, they stayed a few days longer than otherwise they would have done, and after marched; but before they arrived at Lancaster, the Militia were Dismissed, and the Sub Lieutenant says It is out of his power to make them do any thing Else than pay the full fine, without the direction of Councill, as there is no precept in law to do Otherwise.

I add no more than to show your Excellency and Council, that they are and Still have been since the present Contest, Loyal Friends to their Country, Men of Integrity, and worthy your Notice.

I have the Honour to be, with all Respect,

Your Excellencies most Humble & Obed Servant,

SAML. IRWIN.

Cumberland County, Dece^r 6th, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council, &c^a, Philadelphia.

Hon^d by Col^o Davis.

Indorsed,

Dec. 6, 1780.

Col. Wm. Will to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

From some Conversation i have just heard, there is a Certain Bertlis Shinn, Who is a suspitious Carracter, and has a Vessel now Lying at Warder's Wharf* Clear'd for Boston, But her Cargo would Suit New York. Information may be had from Coll. Rice, at Kensington, & John Thompson Cooper, near Peter Knight. I am, S^r, your Very Humble Servt,

WM. WILL.

Indorsed,

Dec. 6, 1780.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 562.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, December 6, 1780.

Sir,

By the enclosed Copy of a Resolve of Congress of the 4 Instant,* your Excellency will be informed, that Thomas Smith & Richard Bache are appointed Commissioners on the Part of the United States, either of them to indorse the Bills that shall be emitted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to the Resolution of Congress of the 10th of March last.

I have the Honor to be, with every Sentiment of Esteem & Regard, your Excellency's most obedt. & most hble. Servant,

SAML. HUNTINGTON, Presidt.

His Excellency President Reed.

Pres. Reed to Congress, 1780.

Sir,

In Duty to the United States as well as to the subjects of Pennsylvania whose Interests are the particular Objects of our Care we have thought proper to lay before the Hon. Congress a high Abuse of Office committed by James Mease late Clothier Gen. & William West Jun.† his Deputy or Appointee who in Conjunction with Major Gen. Arnold did under Colour of Office in the Year 1778 take from Sundry Inhabitants of this City great Quantities of Merchandize not necessary for the Army which were converted to their private emolument. Mr West thought proper soon after this Transaction to go to England without any publick Authority & Permission—has since resided in St Eustatia & lately returned to this State in Consequence of a Proclamation issued by the Supreme Executive Council: Upon being questioned with Respect to the Transaction of Office above referred to, he declared himself responsible to Congress & to them only for his Conduct therein.

Conceiving that his Submission to your Hon. Body was in this Instance proper, we transmit an attested Copy of the Agreement entered into between Mess. Arnold, Mease & West, the Original of which being shewn to Mr West he acknowledged—& there are divers Persons in this City ready as we are informed to prove the taking their Goods from them as before mentioned.

As the Appeal is thus made to Congress whose Officers the Parties then were we beg Leave to submit it to their Wisdom & Justice.

I have the Honour to be Sir,

Your Obed. Hble Serv.,

P. S. We beg Congress will excuse the not sending the Original of the Agreement as there are private Suits depending in which it will be a necessary Piece of Evidence but it will be delivered to their Order when necessary.

* See p. 635—also, Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 563. † See p. 631.

Lt. Saml. Rea to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Mountbethel, Northampton County, Decem. 1st, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Agreeable to the orders received from Council I have ordered out one Class of the Militia of this County, and they have turned out past Expectation, by the best account I have yet received they amount to upwards of three hundred Men, which was thought by a number of the frontier Inhabitants to be more than necessary at this Season of the year, Therefore with the advice of the Sub-Lieutenants I have Dismissed the men from three Battalions untill further orders, which we suppose to be the one half as there is but six Battalions in the County, hopeing your Excellency and Council may approve thereof.

I remain Sir, with due respect

your Excellencys Most Obedient

and very Hble Sert,

SAMUEL REA, Lieut.

Directed,

(On Public Service.)

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

To the Care of

Wm. McFanen, Esq.

Col. Dan. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Fort Pitt, Dec. 8th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Delaware Council of Cooshocking have declared war against the Seneca Indians and in consequence of their Declaration have already killed one warrior of that Nation upon French Creek, for which there will doubtless be a retaliation, and with a small quantity of Goods their force might be entirely diverted from our frontier Settlements. The Indian which was killed by the Delawares belonged to a party consisting of eight, who had taken a Woman & two Children from Westmoreland County. But as the Delawares did not discover any of the Prisoners, it is probable they had been previously murdered. I take this relation from a whiteman, whom I sent with the Indians to observe their Conduct.

The Commissioner of Westmoreland informs me that he is to purchase 7000 Gallons of Whiskey for this District, the order from the Honble executive Council I presume, was to him to comply with the requisition of his Excellency the Commander in chief, but if it

is otherwise, I hope we shall yet be allowed some liquor which is fit to drink. Mr. Perry has not in my opinion answered the Recomendation you received in his favor, and as it appears by the inclosed Copy of a Letter from Gov. Jefferson that the greatest part of the inhabitants on this side the mountain are indisputably within our State I submit to your better Judgement whether it might not be proper to appoint a second Commissioner for what is now called Monongalia & Yoghagania.

Our distresses for want of Meat continue and I am more convinced than before that an adequate supply of Meat cannot be had from the Inhabitants on this side the mountain.

The new arrangement of the Army is indeed a very Honble one, and many will probably be induced to retire but for my own part, as I have been so long in actual Service I hope to continue in the Field untill the liberty of my Country is fully established.

I shall be happy to receive a line from you and have the Honour to be with the utmost respect & esteem,

Dear Sir, your most
Obedt Servt,
DANIEL BRODHEAD.*

Directed,
His Excelly Jos. Reed, Esqr,

(COPY) GOV. JEFFERSON TO COL. DANL. BRODHEAD, 1780.

Richmond, Oct. 12th, 1780.†

Sir,

I received some time ago a Letter from the board of war desiring that provisions might be furnished for the subsistence of the garrison at Fort Pitt, I immediately informed them that our Treasury was utterly without money and could not be replenished till the meeting of assembly, that the line which had been agreed to by the assembly as a boundary between us and Pennsylvania had thrown into that State, nearly the whole settlement in the vicinity of Fort Pitt and being not yet Ascertained, had left it difficult and improper for us to put in force our Provision Law, which might indeed Produce supplies to the Posts but would Probably give umbrage to the state of Pennsylvania, I am therefore able to do nothing more on this head, but to look forwards to the approaching Session of Assembly for the means of Procuring by Purchase suplies for your Post, & to the Ratification of the boundary by Pennsylvania, and its actual Extention to ascertain the ground on which we may exercise the Compulsory measures of our Law on failure of Purchases. Indeed our inability to aid you may be well known by the Extreme sufferings to which our Posts on the Ohio have been exposed & of which

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 586.

† There is probably an error in this date in taking "the Copy" as it is referred to by C. B. under date of the 8th.

you cannot be uninformed, as soon as any Powers shall be put into my hands to procure either by volunteer or Compulsory means, any suplies for you, you may be assured they shall be exercised.

I am with great respect Sir,

Your most Obed^t Servt,

Directed,

Colonel Daniel Brodhead, Commander of Fort Pitt.

P. S. Since writing the above Col^o Campbell informs me, that the only obstacle to your availing yourself of the Powers given you by the State of Pennsylvania for Procureing Provisions is an apprehension that we might entertain a Jealousy at the exercise of such Power, I assure you that no such apprehension need be Entertained. The inhabitants south of Masons & Dixons line Continued are decidedly in Virginia, over these therefore we cannot authorise you to Exercise any Power derived from the other Government, I make no doubt but you can nearly Judge whereabouts the north line will Run I understand it will but a little to Eastward of the Ohio hence you may Act even there also with Tolerable Certainty.

Genl. Wm. Irvine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Carlisle, Dec'r 8th, 1780.

Dear Sir,

The inclosed Return was handed me by Lieutenant Grier, who says he is now the only officer left—the rest being all broke. My reason for troubling your Excellency with this matter is for fear these men may be forgot by the State ai part of their Quota. They were all engaged as Artillery men & not as Artificers. I believe Col. Flowers claimed them—but on no better foundation than their being generally under his direction fixing Amunition. Captain Coran was undoubtedly an Artillery Officer; these men were all of his Company and properly belong to the State, consequently ought to be annexed to Col. Proctor's Regiment.

Lieutenant Grier has been sent here by Baron Stuben from Richmond in Virginia (where it seems he Commands at present) for Bayonets and other Military Stores.

I have the honor
to be your Excellency's
most obedient humble servant,

WM. IRVINE.

Directed,

On Public Service,
His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire, Philadelphia.

Pres. of University to Dr. Wm. Shippen, 1780.

Sir,

At a late meeting of the Trustees of the University a Petition was presented signed by a Number of Young Gentlemen, Students of Physick, setting forth the great Difficulty they are under with respect to Anatomical Lectures, & praying the Board to take Direction so that they may be assured of having them within some short given Time.

As it seems to be the general Wish that you should perform this Duty by Desire of the Board, I am to request you to inform them whether they may depend upon your doing this Duty, & when you can attend it. I am also to add that from the Advancement of the Season it will not admit of any Delay.

I am with due Esteem, Sir,
your Obed. Hble. ser.,
JOS. REED, President
of the Board of Trustees.

Philad. Decem. 8, 1780.

Pres. Reed to Delegates in Congress, 1780.

Gentlemen,

The Conduct of Capt. Harding of the Confederacy in impressing Seamen, stopping Vessels, searching Papers, &c., in this State without any authority or Permission from the governing powers thereof, & that after being cautioned & wrote to on the subject, cannot be longer overlook'd, & we request you to lay our Complaint against him before the Hon^e Congress. I must also observe that our Unwillingness to interupt the more important Business of Congress last Year, induced us to pass by a Number of Abuses of our Trade, Oppressions of our Citizens & other Irregularities by Capt. Harding & his Officers, but as we find our Lenity has led to a Repetition of them. We request you will take such Measures as you think most conducive to prevent these Practices at present & in future.

I am Gent.,
Your Obed. Hble. Ser.

Directed,

The Delegates of the State.

Samuel Purviance Jr., to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Baltimore, 10th Decr., 1780.

Sir,

By the desire of Mr George Lindenberger, one of the Magistrates of this Town, I transmit you a Paper containing a description of Two men who were a few days ago taken with three others on board One of the Enemies small Cruisers in the River Patuxent. Shoemaker & Steinmetz, the Persons whose descriptions I send you, are supposed to be both Inhabitants of Philada., and therefore amenable to your Laws. I have been told the former has acknowledged to Mr Hall, our Jailor, that he acted as an officer on board the Galleys in Delaware, and others tell me he was an Officer of Marines on board Captn. Hopkins in the Expedition to Providence. Several Gentlemn. who have seen him since he was brought here yesterday, mention his behaving with the greatest Insolence & Boldness, throwing out the most violent Threats. In consequence of wh Mr Lindenberger ordered the Jailor to confine him closely, tho he had before indulgd him with Liberty to walk about.

If it appears that either of these men are subject to your Laws it is in my Opinion great pitty they should escape as meer Prisoners of War, but suffer the Rigor of the Laws. It is by such Villains born & fed amongst us that most of the Depredations committed in Cheasapeake since last Spring have been conducted. I understand Shoemaker acknowledges & boasts that he was at the Burning of Colt Fitshugh's & Mr Parran's Houses at Patuxent about six weeks ago.

Mr Lindenberger has put into my Hands some Papers found on Shoemaker, amongst which is his Commission, dated last July, also a printed Certificate signed the 11th of last July by Peter Dubois, Magistrate of Police at New York, from which it would appear that he had not before that time enlisted under British Banners, altho he told Mr Lindenberger he had Joined them upon the Declaration of Independence.

Mr Lindenberger requests your Excellency will as soon as possible give directions about these men to be sent to Philada. A Servant who goes up with my Son & Daughter will return in a few days, & may be found at my Brother's should you have Occasion to write by him.

I am with much Respect Sir,

your most hble. Servt.,

SAML. PURVIANCE, Jun'r.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

Deposition of Joseph Shoemaker, 1780.

Baltimore Town, State of Maryland.

On the 9th day of Decr., 1780, was brought before me, one of the justices of the peace for the County aforesaid, a Certain Joseph Shoemaker, who was Privatiring in our Bay and taken by John Walker; and on his Examination Confesseth and said that he was Privatiring, and produced a Commission, saying that he hath a right so to doo in Virtue of his Commission, and that he hath taken a Boat with Tobacco in our Bay, and did intent as Soon as he could get a better Vessel than his own he would follow the fleet. He also Confesseth and Sayd that he was Brother to Saml. Shoemaker in Phila., and hath Lived there, and hath acted under Commission in our Service until Independance was declared, then he gave up his Commission and Traded from Phila. to Virginia for some time until he was taken by a Brittischmen of War and carried to New Yorck, where he took a Brittisch Commission and acted since under that.

At the same time was taken in the same Privatier and brought before me a Captain Henry Steynitz, who Confesseth and Says that he formerly Lived in Phila., and when the Englisch left Phila. he went with them to New yorck, and that this was his Second Voige crusing against America.

Given from under my hand and Seal this 10th day Dec'r, 1780.

GEO. LINDENBERGER.

Col. Moses Hazen to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Duplicate.

Post Fish-Kill, 10th Decemr., 1780.

Sir,

As I have not been furnished with the Act of Pennsylvania respecting those Officers and Soldiers serving in my Regiment and returned as a Part of your State Quota to enable them to draw a Proportion of Clothing furnished by the State to which they belong and other Supplies. I must beg your Excellency will please to give the necessary Orders for the purpose of letting me know in what Manner I am to proceed in making out the Returns and drawing those Supplies, and in particular whether those Returns are to be signed and certified by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment or by the Senior Officer from the State, or how otherwise.

I have the Honor to be
your Excellency's most obedient
And most devoted humble servant,
MOSES HAZEN.

Directed,—Public Service.

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, Governor of the State of Pennsylvania.

Col. Ephraim Blaine to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philada., 11th December, 1780.

Sir,

Your favour of the 9th Instant to Col. Blaine I received late in the Afternoon, and have done every thing in my power to give your Excellency the best information on the subject of it, which you will find in the inclosed Estimate. Sussex County was part of Colonel Hooper's district, therefore part of the Sum affixed to his name may be due to Persons in the State of New Jersey.

I have the Honor
to be Your Excellency's
most Obed^t & most Hble. serv^t,
GEO. MORTON,
for E. Blaine, Esqr., C. G. of P^a.

Directed,

Public Service.
His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, Present.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1780.

State of Pennsylvania, In General Assembly.

Monday, Dec. 11, 1780.

Resolved, that the Supreme Executive Council be directed to furnish this House with a particular account of all confiscated estates already sold, with the names of the Purchasers and the prices they were sold at, together with an account of those reserved for the use of the University, and those remaining unsold.

Extract from the Minutes.

SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 565.

A Return of the Officers, &c., of the Pennsylvania Artillery, &c., under the command of Brigadier General Wayne, 1780.

Return of the Officers, Non-Commissioned and Rank & File of the Pennsylvania Artillery and Infantry, (Entitled to draw State Stores.) Under the Command of Brigadier General Wayne, December 11, 1780.

Regiments.	Colonels.	Lt. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Captain-Lieuts.	Subalterns.	Chaplains.	Surgeons.	Mates.	Serjeants.	Drummers.	Rank & File.	Total. Non-Commissioned Officers & Rank & File.
1st Regiment,	1	1	1	6	1	7		1		26	10	179	215
2d ditto.	1	1	1	6	1	10		1	1	25	18	294	337
3d ditto.	1	1	1	6	1	9		1		21	17	239	277
4th ditto.		1	1	7	1	9			1	25	12	144	181
5th ditto.	1	1	1	5	1	9		1	1	20	11	203	234
6th ditto.			1	6	1	11		1	1	18	9	151	178
7th ditto.		1	1	7	1	7		1		21	11	165	197
9th ditto.	1	1	1	5	1	8		1	1	16	13	140	169
10th ditto.	1	1	1	4		11		1	1	22	14	241	277
11th ditto.		1	1	6	1	9		1	1	24	17	224	265
Total.	6	9	10	58	9	80	2	9	7	218	132	1980	2330

Artillery.

	Colonels.	Lieut. Colonels.	Majors.	Captains.	Captain Lieuts.	Subalterns.	Clerks.	Serjeants.	Corporals.	Bumbadiers.	Gunners.	Musick.	Matrosses.	Total. Non-Commissioned Officers & Matrosses.
Total.	1	1		7	5	2	1	18	11	5	13	30	65	143
Total Artillery & Infantry.	7	10	10	65	14	82								2473

J. MOORE, Major and Inspector.

Pres. Reed to Gov. Livingston, 1780.

Sir,

I received your Excellcy Favour of the 5th Inst. respecting Joshua Bunting, with which we shall most readily comply by delivering him to any Officer producing your Authority to demand him. In Consequence of an Application to us by his Friends we gave him this Indulgence some Time ago on giving Security to appear before you & abide your Order, & if farther Proof should arise here to return, but he refused Compliance, & was of course detained. The Causes of Suspicion against him were that being found in Garveys House after the Family had denied any Persons being up Stairs, & that in Conversation with Joel Mrs. Garvey said that if he could be got to Buntings on his way to New York he would be safe—besides which it appeared Garvey had lodged there frequently on Terms of particular Intimacy, from which we concluded his House was one of the Stages for Deserters & Prisoners passing to New York, as well as for commercial Intercourse—We beg Leave to send you an Information left at his Lodgings by one of our Officers lately exchanged, who is now visiting his friends in the Country, but will be here in a few Days.

I wrote your Excellcy informing that Steelman in consequence of Ball & Prices coming to the Town had refused to qualify to the Information voluntarily given me but which I have no Doubt is true, he has never sent me his Narrative as he proposed. The Power of Gold seems too great for that of Honesty & Patriotism, but it seems indispensably necessary for the publick Welfare to check this Intercourse as soon as possible.

I have the Honour to be with great Regard

your Excellcy Obed. Hble Serv.,

J. R.

P. S. I beg Leave to add that I have received a Letter from Hon. Mr. Scudder respecting Garvey, & that we shall be ready to deliver him to any Officer authorized to take Charge of him.

Indorsed,

Dec. 11, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellcy Gov. Livingston.

Resolutions of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, Decm^r 12th, 1780.

The Comm^es to whom was referred the Letter from the board of War of 28th Nov^r, delivered in a report, whereupon

Resolved, That the Commander in Chief be directed to relieve if he shall judge that post necessary, the garrison of Wyoming as soon as may be, by troops from the Continental Army not belonging to the Line of Pensylvania or Connecticut, or Citizens of either of the said States; And that the present and future Garrison continue to be supplied by the Commissary general from the Magazines of the Continent by purchase or out of the quota of provisions raised by any State for the use of the Continent.

Resolved, That the State of Pensylvania be informed of the steps Congress have taken to remove every subject of jealousy or discontent; And that they be requested to order the supplies which were stopped by Lieut. Hunter on their progress to Wyoming, to be immediately forwarded to that Garrison to relieve its present urgent distresses.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

C. J. McKean to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

My indisposition has prevented my acknowledging the receipt of the Act of Congress of yesterday, respecting my bailing Griswold until now. I would beg the Council to reflect a moment on the tendency, of this proceeding; if a Judge is obliged to satisfy the Council of the propriety of his judgment, or to consult their Opinion, in any one case, he must be under the like obligation in every one for I do not see where the line is to be drawn. A precedent of the kind, I must declare, shall never be introduced by me.

A communication on matters of this nature between the Executive and Judicial Magistrates cannot, consistent with my Ideas of propriety, be in a formal manner, but in a private and friendly way. I am sorry that the Honorable Council should differ in opinion with me about the granting a habeas corpus for, or the bailing of Joseph Griswold, and should be very happy to know their sentiments on such occasions from the Attorney General. I was very anxious to hear every thing that could be urged on both sides of this case, and for that purpose caused notice to be given to Mr. Bradford; he

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 560, and p. 657 of this.

appeared to be uninstructed and did not stay but a few minutes, as the court of Quarter Sessions was sitting;* and Mr Sergeant on the other side spoke very little—In short, I had to search for adjudged cases on the point myself, and humbly conceive that my conduct in this particular was not only strictly conformable to law and my duty, but that I can satisfy you, or any other member of the Council, who will do me the honor to call upon me that the Mittimus for Griswold was not such as could possibly exclude him from being bailed, and that the utmost I could justly do was to hold him in a recognizance in a sufficient sum, with two sureties, to appear and answer, &c., and for his good behavior in the meantime, which he complied with.

As a private Gentleman, and as a Friend to every individual of the Council, I would wait upon them at the time proposed, but I have not been able to walk, nay scarcely to stir, since last Friday night, owing to a violent cold or rheumatism in my loins.

I am, Sir, with perfect esteem,

your most obedient & very humble servant,

THO^s M^cKEAN.

Philadelphia, December 12th, 1780.

P. S. Mr. Lewis yesterday had two more habeas corpus's allowed for Samuel Clarkson and John Cummings—they are returnable to morrow at 11 o'Clock A. M. I wish some one would attend in behalf of the State.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President &c. of Pennsylvania, Present.

C. J. McKean to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Sir,

About half an hour after Cummins & Clark were enlarged on bail by Judge Bryan and myself, I received the favor of the Council of this day, with the affidavit referred to. I should have been pleased if they had arrived sooner, as we could with propriety have postponed the business untill the Attorney General came to Town, he being expected so speedily; but he had been called upon at his office yesterday & to day, and we were informed he was gone to Bucks Court, and would not return 'till the end of the week.

I find that I have mistaken the intentions of Council in their Act of the 11th, and am sorry that in this situation I should have remonstrated in a manner that has given offence; but on a revision of my letter, I really do not perceive any thing, which, in my

* See p. 666.

humble opinion, could give just cause for it. I wrote as an Independent Judge, and expressed my sense of his duty in decent & respectful language. It is true, I mentioned my indisposition "and that I could satisfy you or any other member of the Council who would do me the honor to call upon me," that my conduct in the case of Joseph Griswold* was strictly conformable to law & my duty; but it seems I was not intitled to the honor of being called upon by any of that Honorable Body. I will not enter into a discussion of the comparative dignity of a member of Council and of the Chief Justice being desirous of transacting the public business in a way the most agreeable and likely to prove the most beneficial; and declare, that my meaning was, that as I was unable to wait upon the Council, I would be glad to see any of them, in order to explain the whole proceeding, with a view to prevent the least misunderstanding even for a moment.

You are pleased to say, that my letter on this occasion has given the Council the more concern, as early in this businessyou had wrote to me that you might have seasonable information of any measure taken &c., I have had recourse to the letter referred to which is dated the 22nd of Novemr. last, and find the contents are forgotten by the Council, there being no such intimation therein; You only hope, that some mode may be fallen upon to delay these men being enlarged untill you had time to communicate the circumstances to the Assembly, that the Law for apprehending disaffected persons might be renewed. The habeas corpus for Griswold was applied for in legal form on the 2nd instant, the Attorney General had notice of it by my orders (tho' no part of my duty) he did not desire the Hearing to be postponed and the prisoner was bailed on the 6th now Sir, I shall submit it to you whether the charge of precipitancy might not have been spared.

Upon the whole, it gives me great concern that the Judges should give any offence to Council by bailing persons committed by them; but while their commitments are of no more validity than those of Justices of the peace while commitments in England by the King himself in person, or by his privy Council, or by any of the members thereof, are subject to an examination by any of the twelve Judges on a habeas corpus, which must be granted, without delay on any pretence whatsoever, upon demand made; while the Justices of the Supreme court in this State are intrusted with the personal liberty of the Subject; in brief, while the habeas corpus act remains in full force; I say, while those things are so, I flatter myself upon calm reflexion it will not be thought amiss in the Judges to proceed as they have done in cases of this sort.

In my judicial character I am obliged to decide according to the laws and the best of my judgment, uninfluenced by any threats or apprehensions of consequences; and shall be extremely unhappy if

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 566, 569—and 654, 666, of this.

any injury to the Public should ensue from, or the harmony of the Executive and Judicial powers of Government should be disturbed by it.

I am, Sir, with the utmost regard,
your Excellency's & the Councils,
most obedient humble servant,
THO. McKEAN.*

Philadelphia, Decemb. 12th, 1780.
His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr.

Wm. Henry to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Lancaster, Decr. 12, 1780.

Sir,

The provision and Forage at this place being nearly expended and Majr. Wirtz informing the Commanding officer Lt. Colo. Temple that he could not engage to furnish the Troops with a sufficient Quantity of provisions, Forage &c. The Colonel applied to me as a Magistrate for Press Warrants to enable Mr. Wirtz to take those Articles where they might be found, but as the Laws would not support me in granting such Warrants, I informed the Colonel that I would write to the president and Council concerning the Affair, it is certain they cannot be supported here without Hawling the Hay Ten or Fifteen Mile, as the Hay in the neighbourhood of Lancaster has been chiefly consumed by the Horses purchased for the French Army and by the Horses kept here &c, and those who have Hay Cattle &c. will not part with it without Specie or Continental Money—Why is not the New State Money made a Legal Tender,—many would gladly take it, if they could pay their Debts with it. If the persons, who may refuse to take the New Continental Money are admitted to Bail, the Severity of the Law, published for Consideration will be evaded, Trials will be put off from Court to Court &c. Would it not be better, that the offender should be Committed without Bail or Main prise till the ensuing Sessions or if he choose it till a Court for that purpose Should be called by himself.

Soap, Candles and Vegetables are not furnished, the Troops here and they complain much for Want of them,—One of our Collectors is sent to Jail for having speculated with the Money.

I am Sir,
Your very obedient,
& hum. Servant,
WILLIAM HENRY.†

Directed,
His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr Philadelphia.
☞ Express.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 565, 566.
† Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 570.

JOHN HAZELWOOD TO PRES. REED, 1780.

To the Honourable the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen

After receiveing Instructions for the purchasing a quantity of salt Provisions taken in the Prize Ship Sarah, I waited on Clemd. Biddle Esqr, marshall, to know the day of Sale, who Informed me it should be sold on Wednesday the 13th Instant, since which I got the Inspector of salt provisions for the City to go with me to examine the same & find it to be such as is by no means fitt for the use of the Army.

I am Gentlemen,

Your most Obt. Sevt.

JOHN HAZELWOOD, C. P.

Decbr. 12th, 1780.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr. President of the supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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30 Tierces Peas.
10 Barrels Beef not Good.
11 Tierces Beef not Good.
18 hhd. Ditto not Good.
50 puncheon Pork not Good.
6 Tierces Ditto Sweet but thin and has been repacked lately.
1 Barrel Ditto.

CHRISTIAN WIRTZ TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Lancaster, December 12th, 1780.

Sir,

Col. Myland's Regiment of Dragoons, at present under the command of Lieut Col. Temple, have arrived, and are station'd in this Town. The Demands of Provisions and Forage for the support of the Corps, and the Daily Issues to Guards, Soldiers on furlough, Prisoners of War, and Forage to Brigades of Waggons, will evidently appear to be somewhat extensive.

The Consumption of the Article of Hay will be greater than the Country in this Vicinity can furnish; and unless the Invalid Horses, and part of those belonging to the Corps, are distributed through the County, they will undoubtedly Suffer, and not be Supplied. The Draught in the last Summer Season was so constant as to prevent

the Crops being so good as usual, besides the Quantities Mr Slough purchas'd for the use of the French Horses, which makes the Scarcity become more general; so that we are necessitated to Haul the Hay 16 and 18 Miles.

Col. Temple is unwilling to have his Regiment Divided, and make no doubt has wrote to Council on the Subject.

When your Excellency was at Lancaster, I received Orders to purchase Beef Cattle for the support of this Post, in which business I proceeded as far as I was enabled, and the Continental Money lasted; so that the Stores were supplied, and about Six or Eight Weeks remaining in Stock; but now am sorry to Inform Council, that I can make no farther Progress in that Way, by Voluntary Purchase, as the State Money will not pass for that Purpose. This Information I have thought advisable to give, In Order that Provision may be made in Time.

I have the Honor to be

Yr Excellency's most Obdt & Humble Servt,

CHRISTIAN WIRTZ, C. P. L. C.*

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Pres. Reed to Chief Justice McKean, 1780.

Sir,

Your Favour of Yesterday* was duly received. Your Indisposition would have been a sufficient Apology without the other Reasons, which the Council are of Opinion might on this Occasion have been spared, as there was no Intention, nor did our request intimate any, to render any Account of your judicial Proceedings, but merely to confer with you on the Subject, so as to provide for the publick Safety, & in future prevent Interferences of Authority, which only weaken Government, & increase the Insolence of the disaffected.

We shall at all Times endeavor to avoid inconvenient Precedents, & especially we shall not establish that of the Supreme Executive Council attending on any of their own Appointments, either collectively or individually, on publick Business.

Your Letter on this Occasion has given the Council the more Concern, as early in this Business we wrote to you, that we might have seasonable Information of any Measures taken, which, if we had received, we should have directed the Attr Genl, & have furnished him with the Grounds of Griswold's Commitment;—as it was, we knew nothing of the Habeas Corpus till the Party was discharged. We are informed it has been practised, that when the Crown (in

* Col. Rec., Vol. XII., page 570.

† See pp. 649-652, 666.

England) has not been prepared, the Party has been remanded, & brought up at another Day. But how the Council could give you the necessary Directions, when the Business is thus precipitated without their Knowledge, we are yet to learn.

We have issued a Warrant to apprehend Griswold again, as we shall the rest, while we are of Opinion their being at large is inconsistent with the publick Safety. And on this Subject must add, that several of these Persons are detained in Prison to be delivered to the Authority of New Jersey, where their Offences were committed, & we have so informed the Governor of that State. If farther Discharges are made & any Consequences prejudicial to the publick ensue, we shall deem ourselves entirely exonerated from any Blame; & if the Harmony of the executive Power of Government is disturbed, we shall hold ourselves equally innocent. We have sent for the Att'y Genl., & if practicable he will attend this Day.

I am, Sir, Your Obed. Hble. Servt.,

JOS. REED.*

Indorsed,
Dec. 13, 1780.

Pres. Reed to Edward Scull, 1780.

Sir,

I duly received your Letter of the 10th Inst., & am very sorry for the Neglect you complain of, & the more as I particularly requested Col. Morgan to make it an Object of his special Care—At present we can do no more than urge him to perform his Duty, which we have done by the enclosed Resolve, which you will forward to him, & get his peremptory Orders to the Sub Lieutenants, to proceed with all Diligence. We have no Money in the Treasury, nor is there any Probability of replenishing it, at least for some Time. The Assembly are about such great & material Alterations in the Militia, by striking off the Sub Lieutenants, & diminishing the Number of Muster Days, that it would not be proper to make any new Appointments, untill we see the Issue of their Deliberations.

I am, Sir, Your Obed. Hble. Servt.

Resolved, That Col. Jacob Morgan, Lieutenant of the County of Berks, be directed to pay off, with all Expedition, the Militia who march'd on the late Tour of Duty; & that in Case of Col. Morgan's Indisposition to proceed personally in this Duty, he urge the Sub Lieutents so as [to] collect a competent Sum to answer the above Purpose without Delay.

Indorsed,
Dec. 13, 1780.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 566, 567,—and page 649 of this Vol.

Pres. Reed to Lt. Col. Ryan, 1780.

Sir,

Upon examination of your Appointment we think you intitled to your pay as Lieut. Col. during* the tour of duty, which we doubt not the Paymaster will settle with you on the same Principles of Depreciation with other officers.

The Assembly have made such material changes in the Militia Law as in our opinion will make that service very different from what it has been & as the appointment of Inspector was once considered by the Legislature & not approved we think it our duty to inform you thereof so that you need no longer place any dependance on an appointment thus circumstanced, & which may prevent your engaging in some mode of Business more permanent which you will consider yourself from this time at liberty to do.

I am Sir,

Your obed. Hble Ser.

Directed,

Lt Col. Ryan.

Indorsed,

Decr 13th, 1780. To Lieutenant Colonel Ryan.

Assembly to Pres. Reed, 1780.

In Gen. Assembly, Dec. 14th, 1780.

Sir,

The house have directed me to inclose a copy of a Resolve of the 8th instant appointing a Committee to procure a state of the Treasury & to inform Your Excellency & the Honble the Council, that no other order has been given by this House. The Committee having been called upon deny giving any order, prohibiting the Treasurer from issuing Continental Money. I have the Honour to be with sentiments of Respect & Esteem,

Sir, Your Excellencys most obedient

& most humble servt.

FRED'K H. MUHLENBERG, Speaker.†

Directed,

His Excellency, Joseph Reed, Esqr President of the State.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 571.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 568.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philadelphia, December 14, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency will receive enclosed, the Copy of a resolve of Congress of the 12th Instant, by which you will be informed of the Measures they have adopted for relieving and supplying the garrison at Wyoming, and for removing every subject of Jealousy & Discontent. And to relieve the present urgent Distress of the Garrison, it is requested that the State of Pennsylvania would order the supplies which were stopped by Lieut. Hunter on their progress to Wyoming to be immediately forwarded to that Garrison.

I have the Honor to be with the highest respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant.

SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.*

Directed,

His Excellency President Reed.

Pres. Reed to David Rittenhouse, 1780.

Sir,

By a Clause in the inclosed Bill you will observe that the President or Vice President in Council are directed to draw upon you for a Sum equal to in Specie in order to inlist such Soldiers whose Times of Inlistment are near expiring. You will please to inform me what Money you have in the Treasury & what Prospects you have of complying with such Orders if drawn upon you, for the above Purpose. As we apprehend the House of Assembly are not acquainted with the State of our Finances we wish to give them proper Information lest they should be disappointed in their Expectations on this Subject.

I am &c.†

Indorsed,

Dec. 14th, 1780. To David Rittenhouse, Esq., Treasurer.

Pres. Reed to C. J. McKean, 1780.

Sir,

You will please to return Mr Joel's Affidavit as it was made no Use of. As you seem still to mistake the Intervention of the Council for a Controul of your judicial Freedom I can only repeat that it was calculated to give the State an Oppy to be heard & that

* See page 649.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 571.

Measures for the publick Safety might be adopted consistent with the Law which premature Decisions have prevented. The proceeding to discharge the others when the Att^y Gen. was out of Town on publick Business seems rather calculated to add to than lessen the publick Difficulties. But as we have resolved to make no more Commitments subject to such hasty & imprudent Controul there is no Necessity to enlarge farther upon a disagreeable Subject.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble Ser.*

Indorsed,

Dec. 15th, 1780. To Honble Thomas McKean, Esq., Chief Justice.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1780.

State of Pennsylvania,

In General Assembly,

Saturday, 16th December, 1780.

The Committee appointed on the 10th ult. to ascertain and report the expenses of Government &c. laid before the House a letter from His Excellency the President of the State, dated in Council the 14th† Inst; which being read and considered, it was

Resolved, that the said Committee be instructed to make application to the Supreme Executive Council for a list of the names and employments of all persons now in office, nominated by Council by virtue of any Act of Assembly.

Extract from the Minutes,

SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.

Pres. Reed to Pres. of Court at Northumberland, 1780.

Sir,

The Assembly of the State have directed the Att^y Gen. to attend the Trial of Francis Hopkinson, Esq., Judge of the Adm^y on Tuesday next: his Attendance at the County Court of Northampton will of course be impracticable the Publick Interests will therefore require that the Trials of Misprision of Treason or other Offences other than the ordinary Business of Sessions should be deferred till the Att^y General can attend them.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble Ser.,

JOS. REED.

Directed,—The Presid. of the Court of Q^r Session, Northampton.

Indorsed,

Dec. 16th, 1780. To the President of the Court of Quarter Sessions N^rn County.

* See page 650, &c.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 571.

Hon. James Duane to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philad., 16 Decem., 1780.

Sir,

The Sherif some days since handed me a Letter as from your Excellency but unsigned. It was nevertheless treated with all the Respect which was possible, and the Sherif was left at Liberty to examine every Apartment without Interruption. He was only told that the House was our possession, and that in the first Instance it must be presumed in Law that the goods belonged to the Occupants, that the bare assertion of the Defendant Bulkly coud be no proof to the Contrary, that there were beside interfering claims, and that he ought to call a jury to ascertain the property, for his own justification and to avoid oppression; and that otherwise he must proceed at his peril. This Remonstrance having no Effect the House was abandoned to his discretion, and he completed his Inventory according to Bulkly's direction.

On his principles we do not see what should restrain him from entering the House even of the Chief Magistrate and inventorying and selling his Effects, if Bulkly woud attend and affirm that he claims them as his own.

The Judgement is understood on all hands to be collusive. The Sherif himself seems to be of that opinion: but there is no Court of Chancery to detect the fraud: and this in a Case where the Remedy woud be certain, for Mr Dickenson is a judgement Creditor of long standing, and from mere Charity has withheld his Execution Mr Howel is also a Creditor. Even independant of these Considerations if Bulkly coud strip the House of all he might possibly claim in right of marriage, it woud be of very little benefit to him, nor woud it incommode us: the Chief of the furniture belonging to Mr Jones an absent Delegate of Virginia, Mr Howel Mrs Prid and another Relation of the family. These are represented to us as Facts, and we think ourselves bound to lay them before your Excellency from motives of Humanity as well as Justice; and because it woud, to say no more be unreasonable that we shoud suffer very great Inconveniencies which even the Rigour of Law does not require and a Court of Equity woud prevent.

On the whole we shall be perfectly satisfied if the Sherif conducts himself by the Opinion of the Attorney General who is a publick officer. The station in which we are placed and the Circumstances of the Case seem to point it out as proper. Delicacy alone forbids us to trouble your Excellency, or we shoud request the favour of your Direction.

I have the Honour to be with the greatest Respect Sir,
your Excellency's most obedient
& very humble Servant,
JAS. DUANE.*

Directed,—His Excellency President Reed.

* See page 629.

Brig. Gen. James Irvine and Col. G. Matthews to Congress, 1780.

Philadelphia, 16th December, 1780.
(Copy.)

Sir,

Appointed to the honor of waiting on Congress in behalf of our unfortunate fellow-captives still in possession of the Enemy on Long Island, we are instructed to represent to that honorable Body the necessity of yielding them immediate relief and support. The keen sensation inseparable from pressing want induced them to solicit Sir Henry Clintons permission for this purpose; we will not, however, lest we wound too deeply the feelings of humanity, enter into a detail of all the complicated ills they have experienced during the space of nineteen tedious months in which they have received no manner of support from the Public—not even had their Board paid; in consequence of which some of them have been compelled to seek a wretched retreat from famine in the detested Provost of New York.

Under cover are Sundry Papers which will explain to your Excellency and Congress in what manner it will now be in your power to afford relief to your unfortunate Officers, by furnishing them with such necessarys as can best be spared for that purpose. To this we earnestly beg your earliest attention, and should any further personal explanations be necessary we will be happy in attending Congress or any part of them for this purpose.

The confidence thus reposed in us by our fellow prisoners not only affords an opportunity of manifesting our attachment to them and attention to their wants, but also to represent our own particular Situation, wherein we have received a deeper wound from our Country, than either want could impose or the severity of an enemy could inflict.

Our vanity does not lead us to boast of more than common abilities as Soldiers; but in point of attachment and readiness to do our duty when our country calls, we yield to none.—Conscious of having sacrificed interest and ease for her service, and some of us neglected the duties of a Parent to a rising family of helpless children; and that since we became her Soldiers we have never indulged a wish to survive the liberty of our country; we leave you to judge what must be our feelings when held up to public view to be pointed at as unworthy the rank we bore in her Army, and undeserving those liberties for which we have fought and bled, by the exchange of Officers Prisoners of a few months date in preference to us who have indured a captivity of more than three torturing years.

Mortifying as these reflections must to a sensible mind, necessarily be, they are sometimes softened by the belief that they were occasioned by inattention rather than any design to injure; and that

Congress will readily apply immediate relief to the wound we have received by effecting our liberation for the Prisoners still remaining in their hands—in which also we hope will be included the yet unfortunate Gentlemen in the hands of the Enemy on Long Island —Surely justice calls for such a step and humanity adds her request for its execution.

We have the honor to be with all possible
Respect & esteem Your Excellency's Most
Obedient and very Humble Servant,
(Signed)
JAMES IRVINE, B. Gen°.
GEORGE MATHEWS,
Col. 9th Virg. Regt.

His Excellency Samuel Huntington Esquire.

Wm. McCalla to Council, 1780.

Bucks County December 17th, 1780.

To the Supreme, the Executive Council, of the State of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen agreeable to my Commission, and the Trust Committed to me, as Commissioner of Purchases for the supplies of the Army, I have applied to Col. Arthur Irvine to purchase from him Forage and Other Grain, as he hath a Large Quantity of both, and can Obtain none, he makes a slighty Excuse, and says if I had Continental Money, he woud sell me, but that Excuse is entirely because he knows that I have no Money of that sort, nor can procure any, at present has Daily Trafficing with his Grain, and exchanging it for Iron, &c. sending the Iron to the North-ward, and Carrying on a Trade in that Respect, and when spoke to he replies that he pays no regard to me nor any other Authority, he will sell and dispose as he thinks proper, this Gentleman is causing a great Dissatisfaction among other Individuals, that is sparing Generously out of their small quantitys, that he Either will, or shall, have these Libertys I did not chuse to go into any forcive measure with him, before acquainting with his Conduct, the above you may depend can be well Authenticated by Good Evidences.

I am Gentlemen your most
Obdt. & Very Humble Servant.
Wm. CALLA.
C. P. B. C.

DAVID RITTENHOUSE TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Decem^r. 18th, 1780.

Sir,

Yours dated in Council, the 14th* I received, but a hurry of Business has prevented my answering it sooner. The Continental money in my hands at present is quite inconsiderable, exclusive of about 35,000 Dollars which is not in a condition to be reissued. There is upwards of £30,000 of the new State money in the Treasury.

I heartily wish the House was fully acquainted with the situation of our finances, but it is a matter that will require much time and attention. For my own part I fancy that I foresee difficulties almost insuperable unless new measures are adopted to raise public money. In the present mode I doubt whether the entire sum to be raised the ensuing year will be worth much more than an 18 penny Tax was in 73 or 74. The sums to be levied are set in the old Continental money, worth at present perhaps about $\frac{1}{20}$ of the nominal Sum, and I shall acknowledge myself greatly mistaken if before the 8 monthly Taxes are collected it does not sink to $\frac{1}{200}$. This would perhaps be of little consequence if we were not under the necessity of reissueing the old money, and could procure and issue the new at full value. But how is this to be done. The new money must be received in Taxes at some certain rate, compared with the old, or "Nobody will take it if they cant pay Taxes with it" will be the Cry. Shall it be set at 40 for one, it will then be reduced at once to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the intended value, & the publick Stock proportionably diminished. It will perhaps be wiser to fix it at 120 for once after a few months the old money falls to 150 or 160 for one and a total stop to all collecting of Taxes takes place, every body has the new money, but they cannot part with it unless you allow them specie value. The Consequence is that, either you must allow one new Dollar to pay the Tax of 150 or 200, and so the publick revenues dwindle to nothing, or you do not alter the rate, & the new money depreciates as fast as the old———In short I look upon the old money, excessive in its nominal Quantity, destitute of any proper support, and with the most unaccountable and Contradictory prejudices tack'd to it, to be the greatest evil we labour under, and sufficient to ruin any Currency, Gold and Silver not excepted, which is in any way connected with it, and I verily believe the association lately entered into to preserve its credit was a mistaken Step, which will be attended with pernicious Consequences. Bad as it is, it will nevertheless make a very formidable opposition to every attempt that may be made to introduce any thing better in its room.

I am Sir with great respect Your
most obedient Humble Servt.
DAVD. RITTENHOUSE.*

Directed,—His Excellency the President of the State.

* See page 657.

Brig. Gen. James Irvine to Assembly, 1780.

Philadelphia, 18th Dec., 1780.

Sir,

Nominated to the painful, though from its hoped for happy consequences, pleasing office of waiting on Congress and the Legislature of this State on behalf of my unfortunate fellow captives on Long Island, I am instructed to lay before them the distresses to which they have been subjected, not only from a total want of almost every necessary that can render life supportable but also from the adoption of a system whereby the Prisoners of this State are, as they conceive cruelly denied the advantages afforded to those of the other States; that of being exchanged for the Prisoners taken by the subjects of such States respectively.

In justice to the supreme Legislature of their country as well as in tenderness to their own injured feelings, they would willingly suppose that the Resolution of Congress forbidding the future exchange of prisoners in the line of any particular State, could not be intentionally designed against the unhappy subjects of this Commonwealth; yet, when they consider the great number of Pennsylvania officers in captivity, the total neglect or inability of the Public at large to relieve their urgent necessities; the consequent enormous expence which this State must necessarily incur in administering to these wants; and recollecting the many instances wherein the Gentlemen of other States have been liberated upon principles directly opposite to those now complained of, they cannot deny themselves the justice of remonstrating against a system which in its operation must unavoidably injure the gentlemen whom I have the honor to represent.

On the subject of supplies they think it sufficient to inform this honorable House that since the 20th of May 1779, they have received no manner of support of the Public, notwithstanding repeated applications both to Congress and the Legislature of this State, Confidently relying on the wisdom and humanity of this House, as well as on their ability to relieve their suffering officers in captivity, I will venture to suggest to them, that if Specie can be procured it will not only afford more immediate relief, but be also attended with less inconveniency than any other method at present practicable; but if this be impossible I have the honor to lay before you the copies of sundry papers which will fully explain how readily it may be done by sending in such articles therein specified as can best be spared. In addition to these papers I also lay before you the copy of a letter to The honorable the Congress on the subject of supplies and exchange; and the high opinion I entertain of your justice and humanity induces me to hope that nothing in the power of this House will be wanting to lessen the general distresses therein

represented, or to attend to the reparation of the injuries too justly complained of.

I have the honor to be with every sentiment of respect

Sir, your most obedient

and very humble servant,

JAMES IRVINE,

B. Genl Penns^a Militia.

Directed,

The Honorable Frederick Muhlenberg, Esquire, Speaker to the House of Assembly.

BRIG. GEN. JAMES IRVINE TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Philadelphia, 18th December, 1780.

Sir,

Permitted by Sir Henry Clinton, and requested and authorized by the unfortunate captive officers on Long Island to represent in their name the distresses they have long suffered in the service of their country; and at the same time to beg that an end may at length be put to those sufferings which they have hitherto borne with more than common fortitude and magnanimity through a series of afflicting years, but which, from long unprecedentedly long continuance are at length become insupportable.

Desirous of performing with Fidelity, the duties of this difficult office I have, in conjunction with Colonel Matthews, who is joined with me in this commission, laid before tho Honorable the Congress a letter on this subject the copy whereof will accompany this; and whilst I earnestly reccommend to the attention of your Excellency and the Honorable Council that the most speedy and effectual measures may be taken for the relief of our suffering captives in general and the subjects of this State in particular, I must beg your forgiveness for demanding your attention one moment to the wounded feelings of an individual.

Without incurring the imputation of vanity or being charged with assuming a merit I have no pretention to, I flatter myself I may be suffered to assert that I entered into the service of my country at an early period of the war with as much military experience, and equal zeal and attachment to her interest and happiness as most of the Officers of my rank who have since been less unfortunate. A detail of the accumulated injuries I have since experienced, though painful to the recollection and troublesome in the relation, I will nevertheless venture to give, to shew your Excellency the justice of my present complaint. Appointed to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the first Regiment of this State, I determined to devote my future life to the service of my injured Country upon

any terms not dishonorable. A short time however only elapsed till I had the mortification to see officers who were then my inferiors promoted to a rank above me; and a Resolution of Congress precluding me from the possibility of regaining that rank which from my commission I was entitled to. I had no alternative but that of resigning or submitting to the indignity; I chose the former. But though constrained to leave reluctantly the Continental Army my attachment to my country was not lessened nor my zeal for her service in any degree abated. Honored afterward with the Commission of Brigadier General of the Militia of this State I continued to exercise the duties of that office, and I hope the Gentlemen with whom I had the honor to serve will bear witness to the readiness and fidelity wherewith I did my duty till I was so unfortunate as to become the captive of our Enemies. To enlarge upon all the distresses and indignities inseparable from this state would be detaining your Excellency from the more important duties of your high station; but in justice to myself, permit me to say that after having borne with becoming fortitude a captivity of three tedious years of almost every species of distress, I have seen by an express Resolution of Congress an officer who was captured but a few months since exchanged in preference.

Judge Sir, what must be the feelings of a man conscious of having done his duty with alacrity, served his Country with fidelity; a man who has bled profusely in defence of her rights and liberties; who for her has suffered a long and painful captivity with patience and resolution; who has been tantalized with flattering prospects of liberation which he is now never likely to experience; deluded with the ill founded hope of experiencing unsolicited that justice to which he knew himself entitled; and at last to be doomed by an act of the supreme Legislature of his Country to perpetual captivity, to an endless separation from his kindred, connections, friends, in short from every blessing that can render life supportable: Judge I say the feelings attendant on such a situation, and suffer me to hope that your Excellency and Council will in your wisdom and justice afford me such relief as will most effectually tend to the reparation of the injuries I suffer.

I am Sir, with the highest respect and esteem,

your Excellency's

most obedient and

very humble servant,

JAMES IRVINE,

B. Genl Penns^a Mil^a.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire.

Wm. Bradford Jr. Att'y Genl. to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Philad^a, Decr 18, 1780.

Sir,

Ever since the Council in which you preside did me the unsolicited honor of calling me to the post of Attorney General, I have felt myself under the strongest obligations to discharge the Duties of it with fidelity and attention. It is one of the first wishes of my heart to do honor to their choice and to serve the public in whose name they have commissioned me. Influenced by these feelings and sensible that I have acted agreeable to them, I was surprised to hear that the Chief had so far mistaken my conduct as to insinuate to your Excellency that I have been inattentive to my duty: and tho' I trust the reflection was not intended to injure me, yet I beg leave to state the circumstances of the affair which is the subject of his letter: & I am sure the simple relation will be a full justification of my conduct.*

On the first Day of the last Quarter Sessions just before the Court met, Mr. Ingersol informed me that a *claim* was to be argued that morning at the Chambers of the Chief Justice & requested my attendance. I accordingly went; and while there was informed by Mr. McKean that a Habeas Corpus had been taken out for Griswold returnable the next Day at ten o'clock. I told him it was very unfortunate as I was obliged to attend the Sessions at that hour: and proposed that the prisoner might be brought up at nine, at which time I would attend on the part of the State. The Chief Justice had no objections: and I undertook to inform the Sheriff and Mr. Sergeant who was council for Griswold, of the alteration. I did so: Mr. Sergeant told me he should not attend nor make any argument on the occasion, adding that he understood the Chief Justice declined hearing argument on such Occasions. The next morning a little before ten o'clock I waited on the Chief Justice, being prevented from attending earlier by persons who had business in the Sessions. Late, however as it was, neither Sheriff, prisoner nor Council had been there. And as the business of the Court required my attendance as soon as possible I informed his Honor that Mr. Sergeant declined attending or arguing the matter, & that therefore there would be no occasion for my attendance: adding that if there were no objections taken to the return of the Sheriff, I supposed the prisoner would be remanded. The Chief Justice said, he chose the matter should be argued, & Mr. Sergeant must attend, I replied, it was very well: when he attended I was willing to meet him: but as he declined being there that morning, I would go to the Sessions where I was wanted. Upon this I hastened to my other business hoping that if a future day was appointed I should have notice of it. But I never heard anything more of the affair, untill the next day when I understood that Griswold was at large.

* See 649–652, 654.

With regard to the other Habeas Corpus that were taken out, I never had the least information of them untill my return from Bucks Court. It was then too late, for the prisoners were admitted to Bail.

This is a full and true state of the facts as far as my recollection serves me, & I hope will convince your Excellency & the Honorable Council that I have not been inattentive to the Duties of my office.

With the greatest respect I have the honor to be.

Your Excellencys

Most obt hum'l Servt.

Wm BRADFORD, Jun.

Directed,

His Excellency, The president of the State.

Sec'ry. Matlack to Francis Hopkinson, 1780.

Sir,

The President & Council have thought proper to postpone your Trial until Thursday morning next ten o'clock of which you will please to take notice.

I am your most obedient
humble servant.
T. M. Secy.*

Philada. Dec. 18th, 1780.

Directed,

To Hn'ble Francis Hopkinson, Esq. Judge of the Court of Admiralty.

Pres. Reed to Wm. Henry, 1780.

Dr Sir,

I received your Favour by express & was obliged to detain him till I had laid the matter before the Assembly who can alone effect the cure for that terrible disease which pervades all our departments & makes publick Business an invidious & insupportable Burthen they have concluded to remove the Cavalry to Lebanon if it can be done & send the Invalid Horses over Susquehanna. As to press Warrants the Law appointing Mr. Wirtz gives him the Power required which ought & must be the Rule of his Conduct & in which I hope he will be fully supported. I am told the State Money will be made a legal tender but I very much doubt whether that will extend its Credit—coercive measures will I fear never create publick Confidence. Your Letter has been read in the House but with what Effect I cannot say.

The Troops you say complain much of wanting Soap Candles and

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 567, 573, 574, 578, 579, 583, 584.

Vegetables & we complain very much that the People of Lancaster & other Counties will not pay their taxes to enable us to procure them these articles, are not both Complaints reasonable. Our Treasury is at the lowest possible ebb even the first officers of the State are obliged to borrow Money for their Support & this in the rich & plentiful State of Pennsylvania for such it is notwithstanding all its Complaints. I am glad you have sent a Collector to Prison for peculation—if I was an absolute Prince for one Minute I would employ it in giving orders for his Execution. Of what avail are Laws or of what Consequence is Government unsupported & left to struggle with every pitiful waste & disgrace which a private Gentleman would shudder at. Do my good friend open the Eyes of those about you it is Madness & Folly of the most pernicious kind to go on thus. Your Members dare not vote for the only Measure that will relieve us because they are afraid of doing their duty, & disobliging their Constituents. But I must not express what I feel or believe, in due time they will know who understand & pursue their true Interests.

All I can say is that whatever hardships & Inconvenience the People of your County suffer from the Troops they must thank themselves. In time I hope they shall do better.

I am Sir, Your Obed. & very

Hbble Ser.

J. R.

Directed,

W. Henry, Esq. Lancaster.

Indorsed,

December 19th, 1780. To Wm Henry Esqr of Lancaster.

Pees. Reed to Christian Wirtz, 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 12 Inst.* was duly received: We are sensible of the difficulties you have to encounter & are sorry it is not in our Power to give you more Relief. But it is the Assembly alone who can do it effectually it is their Province to supply us with the Means of purchases or other Procurement. We accordingly laid your letter first before the Members of your county stating the consequence to be apprehended it was afterwards laid before the House & this Morning a Committee met us in Conference when it was concluded to apply to the Board of War to remove the Cavalry to Lebanon & the Invalid horses over the Susquehanna, but no Measures are taken or I fear will be this Session to supply the Commissioners with Cash which will be more agreeable than State Money. We have only to say therefore that you must strictly follow the Law under which you

* See page 653.

are appointed & if that is insufficient to answer the desired end neither yourself or the Council can be blamed for not doing what they have not the Means of doing & if the People of the Country suffer any hardships & inconveniencies they will probably instruct their Representatives before next sessions to apply suitable Remedy. The Disease is created by the People & the Means of Cure in their own hands. A better Payment of Taxes will do much in such case this is allways in their Power.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble Ser.

J. R.

Directed,

Christian Wirtz, Esq. Commiss. Lancaster.

Indorsed,

December 19th, 1780. To Christian Wirtz, Esq. Comr of Purchases.

Col. Nicola's Correspondence relative to Recruiting, 1780.

Col. Nicola Epistolary correspondence relative to Recruiting.

No. 1.

Philada., Augt. 16th, 1780.

Sir,

Under the Care of Lieuts. Bigham & Bevin I send you 48 volunteers from York County & 23 from Lancaster County, all armed; these are Men engaged to serve to 15th January next. Their Enlistments and Copies I cannot send not having rec'd any. Under the Care of Will Hennee & two other of the York County Volunteers goes Christopher Wingle, a Deserter from Your Line; he was brought from York Co. by these three Men who have undertaken to conduct him to Camp & have rec'd 480 dollars reward.

I also send 25 recruits enlisted to serve during the War, the Number should have been 35, but two are sick in Hospital, and I have lost Eight by One that went off yesterday, besides the Expence the Public has been at I lose 1000 dollars, and the recruiting Serjeant a Considerable quantity of Clothes. Lewin Green is not strickly within the recruiting Instruction which limits the Youngest to 18 Years of Age, and he is not quite 17, but as he is a promising Lad I took him under the resolve of Congress which directs such to be taken to supply the place of Servants to Officers.

How far the 7 Months men will answer the public Utility I cannot determine, but am certain it has been very detrimental to the recruiting service, & from every information I can receive half the

Expence would the last Winter have procured as many Men to serve during the War.

The Council is informed that some of the Recruits Enlisted by Capt. Anderson have deserted. You are requested to receive or appoint some proper person to receive From Captn. Anderson as many half Johannes's in Gold as he has lost Men. I shall give Lieut Bigham Money to pay the recruits, he takes with him their 3d Bounty, as soon as they reach Camp. Should any of them desert by the way what they were to receive must be paid to the person who receives Captn. Johnston's money, whom I request You will direct to send Me an Accou't of what money he receives. As Various Causes have Occasiond the Recruits to have different Sums due to them, I inclose an Acct. of what Each man is to receive, also a return of what Clothing, &c., Each recruit has Receivd.

Permit me to assure you
that I am with respect Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servt.,
LEWIS NICOLA.

Major Genl. St. Clair or Officer Commanding Penns'a Line.

—

No. 2.

Philada., 18th, 1780.

Sir,

I have been favourd with yours of the 12th Instant, and in Consequence thereof have rec'd Captn. Reily into the Invalid Regimt.

I am obliged to you for your obliging approbation of the recruiting business being put under my direction; how far I am qualified for the Task, a most disagreeable & Vexatious one, I shall not pretend to determine, but can safely affirm no one is more Zealous by that and every Other Means in my power to Contribute to the advantage of the Service.

Last Wednesday I sent you, or rather Intended to send you, 71 Volunteers, but when they were to Embarke 6 or 7 were Missing. I also sent 25 recruits, but am sorry to say that from the Neglect of the Officers into whose Care they were Intrusted I fear the Number will be Considerably reduced.

It gives me pain to personally blame or Complain of a Brother Officer, but Justice to the service Obliges me to do it on some Occasions.

Last Wednesday about 11 o'Clock in the Morning we got all the Men we could Collect on board the Shallop. I returned to the Barracks & was told by a Temporary Serjt. of the Volunteers, who had been left to collect the Stragglers that he could not find one—apprehended they had deserted & Carried off his Coat, & that he had some reason to suspect they were gone on Shipboard. I sent to the

wharf to call Lieut. Bigham to whom I Communicated the Information, and desired that he or Lieut. Bevin should apply to the Council for an Order to search the Shipping & the other remain on board with the Men. About two o'Clock One Callingham, a Volonteer who had deserted the day before was brought to me & Confind. I also rec'd Information that some of the Men were on Shore but Obliged to return by a small party of Invalids left on the wharf for that purpose, but no Officer had been near the Vessel, which had saild. About 5 o'Clock Lieut. Bigham rode into the Barracks; I sent for him, and in presence of Coll. Pickering Express'd my Surprize at such a Neglect of duty, particularly as there was not an old or trusty Serjeant on Board, & that I thought myself in duty bound to inform you thereof; he said the vessel was only gone to Kensington, & that they would Immediately repair on board. I acquainted Lieut Bigham that Callingham was in the Guard House; he desired to have him & that he would take good Care of him. Into whose custody he put him I know not but the next morning he was again brought to me, being detected in a house from which he attempted to Escape by leaping out of an Upper Window. Soon after the Conversation with Lieut. Bigham I sent a Serjeant to Kensington who reported to me that the Vessel was under sail but could not tell whether any Officer was on Board.

I Embrace the Opportunity of the 2d Delaware Regiments going to Camp to send what deserters we have here. Among them Callingham & two other Volonteers of the last party Just brought in,—also George Cook, the Recruit ment'd in my last; if he gets to Camp His third half Johannes, which I shall retain in my hands, will pay half the Money I advanced to disengage him from the Jersey State Regimt. I also propose sending a Recruit Returned from the Hospital & One Enlisted this Morning, & three Volonteers sent me since the last party.

I hope you'll Excuse the Incorrectness of and Erasures in this. Had Moliere been at my Elbow he would have met with many more Causes of Complaint than he has Enumerated in his Comedy les Feacheuse. I believe there has been a Conspiracy among the Males & females to torment me since I sat down to write.

I am with respect Sir,

Your Most Obedt. Servt.,

LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Inv'ds.

Major Genl. St. Clair.

P. S. The Money given to Lieut. Bigham & what will be Returned by Captn. Anderson will serve to pay two of the Recruits their third Bounty, & Cook, as above mentioned, has not Any thing to Receive; Cook has rec'd 1 Hat, 1 Coat, 1 Jacket, 1 Shirt, 1 pr. Overalls, & 1 pr. of Shoes.

No. 3.

Philada., 25th Augt., 1780.

Sir,

A receipt has been brought to me given by the Officer of your Guard for one Andrew Cunningham, a deserter from the Invalids. The man lately belonged to my Regiment, but found sufficiently recovered for field duty was on the 23d April last Returned to the 1st Maryland Regiment, to which he Originally belonged, & from which I presume he deserted & Enlisted either into the 2d Delaware Regim't or a Substitute in the Militia. As the man is fit for service I beg he may be taken care of & sent to the Army by the first safe Opportunity; & as it is proper his History should be known, I request your sending this letter to Colo. Scammel, Adjut. Genl. In our Muster Rolls he is marked enlisted during the war.

I am Sir,

your most Obedt. Servt.,

LEWIS NICOLA, Colo. Inv'ds.

In Consequence of Directions from the Vice President for the State I send you by the Bearer two Recruits and two Volonteers for the Pennsyl. Line, which he desires may be taken care of & sent to Camp by the first safe Opportunity.

To the Commanding Officer at Trenton.

—

No. 4.

Sir,

I take the opportunity of a Corporal of Invalids going to Trenton to send two Recruits & two Volonteers address'd to the care of the Officer commanding there with a request he would forward them to Camp by the first Opportunity.

I am at a loss how to remit to you L. C. hard Money for the last part of the Bounty due the Recruits. If you can pay cash of them a half Johannes or an Equivalent in paper a 75 for one I shall send it to you by the first Opportunity.

Permit me to assure

you that I am Sir,

your most obedt. Servt.,

LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Invds.

Philada., 25th Augt., 1780.

Major Genl. St. Clair or the Commanding Officer in the Pennsa. Line in Camp.

No. 5.

Philad., 27th Augt., 1780.

Sir,

I have sent a Recruiting party under the direction of Serjeant Richard Morthwait to Lancaster & the neighbourhood, & request the favour of your Assistance. I am informed a Cutter is arrived at Boston from the 2d Division of the French Fleet, which it left off Bermudas; if so We should use our utmost endeavours to strengthen our Army. Possibly some part of your Barracks will be convenient to lodge the party and recruits, if so I request your procuring it. I have given the Serjeant Money to raise 7 Recruits. Should he be successful & likely to procure more I beg you'll assist him with money which I will repay you if possible by an order on your Treasurer, or in such other manner as will be most agreeable to you. When the Public Service requires Your Endeavours I am perswaded Appoligies for trouble are needless, but beg leave to assure You that

I am Sir,

Your most Obedt. Servt.,

LEWIS NICOLA, Colo. Inv'ds.

To Colo. Atlee.

—

No. 6.

Philada., 29th Augt., 1780.

Sir,

I hope the Recruits sent to you the 15th Inst. under the Care of Lieut. Bigham are safe arrived. Also three sent the 18th under the Care of the new Delaware Regiment. Since that I have sent two more by one of my Corporals addressed to the care of the Officer Commanding at Trenton, & to day propose sending off 4 more. This mode of Conveyance does not well please me, but I cannot devise a better, & Keeping recruits here is very dangerous as they have so many temptations & Opportunitys to desert; last week Eight of the Invalids Regiment went off, & those that we thus lose are Generally the most Serviceable. I shall be obliged to you if you will desire one of your Aids to give me notice of the Arrival of Henry Stephens & George Cook. Each of the two men last sent, and the four that are to go to day is to receive a half Johannes or its equivalent in papr. money as soon as he Joins the army. I am at loss how to send money for this purpose. I consulted the Vice presidt. yesterday, who desired I would request of you to get the men paid if money can be procured in Camp, and that by the first safe Opportunity money shall be sent to defray these & future demands of the same nature. Colonl. Pickering talks of going soon

to Camp, by him I will send money if I do not meet with a speedier conveyance.

Besides the party Recruiting I have sent another to Lancaster, where Colonel Atlee informs me some good recruits may be had, and has promised his assistance. I have in a former letter mention'd the difficulty I labour under in regard of sending recruits to Camp; I am now obliged to do it through the Channell of the Militia at Trenton—should they march I shall be utterly at a loss; must therefore request your advice & assistance, & that you will permit to assure you that

I am Sir,

your most obedt. Servt.,

LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Invds.

To Majr. Genl. St. Clair or Officer Commanding the Pennsylv'a Line.

—

No. 7.

Philadelp^a, August the 29th, 1780.

I send ye Bearer, Serjt. Job of the Invalid reg't, 4 Recruits for the Pennsa. Line which I am under the Necessity of recommending to your care, & Requesting you will forward them to camp by the first safe opportunity—also a Letter for Genl. St. Clair which it is necessary he should receive with recruits.

I am Sir

Your most Obedt, Servt.,

LEWIS NICOLA, Colol. Invds.

To The Officer Command'g Pennsylva'a Militia, Trenton.

—

No. 8.

Sir,

This will be delivered to you with 4 Recruits whose Enlistments are Enclosed, & a return of what necessaries I could procure for them.

I am with respect Sir,

Your most Obedt. Servt.,

LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Inv'ds.

Maj. Genl. St. Clair or Offic'r Command'g Pennsy'a Line.

P. S. I have Wrote a Long letter to you by this days post which probably you will receive before this reaches Camp.

No. 9.

Camp near the New Brige, Sepr. 5th, 1780.

Sir,

I have the Receipt of several of your lett'rs to acknowledge which should not have been so long delay'd if I had not been ill of a fever, which indeed has prevented my taking notice as yet of your Complaint against Lieut't Bigham, which I am the more surprized at as I have ever found him remarkably attentive—more so than most Officers of his station. What you mention is however a very extraordinary Deviation from Duty, and shall not be passed over without Censure at Least.

Capt. Henderson has paid me no money nor indeed have I asked him for any as you have not mentioned on what Acct. he was to pay it; neither has Lieut't Bigham said a single Word to me about money.

Two only of the three Men you mention to have sent by the Delaware Regiment have arrived; four others Since, which are I suppose the four alluded to in your favour of the 29th. What may have become of the two sent to the care of the Militia Officer at Trenton I know not. Stephens & Cook arrived and once both deserted.

The sending on the Recruits through the Militia is by no means a good mode, but the wretched state of our Money makes it difficult to point out a better, as officers, though it is undoubtedly a part of their Duty, cannot be employed to bring them up without having their Expences borne, and the Expence would be very heavy if they were sent with every small party it may be necessary to send away from Philadelp^a, which is certainly a very bad place for them to be detained in as they are there exposed to every Species of Vice & Seduction.

I should think it the best way to commit them to Goal untill a Sufficient number are collected which might be brought up to the army under the Care of an Officer and a proper party, which would always be sent on application unless we should be in such a situation to expect the Enemy.

At present it is not possible to procure Money to pay of either the Recruits that are arrived or those that may arrive, as there is not a Shilling in the Treasury. If any Payments are to be made here it will be therefore necessary that money be sent up.

I am Sir,

Your very Humble servt.,

AR. ST. CLAIR.

To Col. Nicola.

No. 10.

Philadelp^a, Sepr. 9th, 1780.

Sir,

In expectation of dispatching Capt. McElhatton this day with a party of Pennsylv'a Volunteers—the numbers I cannot yet ascertain as some came in last night but no report has yet been made thereof —& 11 recruits I sit down to write, but am doubtful whether I can accomplish my intention as the Capt. Cannot Stir 'till he gets money from the Board of War to bear his Expences—A matter of difficulty.

In hopes of Colonl. Pickerings going immediately to Camp I last week gave him 6 thousand dollars to be paid to you, but as I find his departure uncertain, I will endeavour to get the money & send it by Capt. McElhatton with four thousand more.

I shall be glad to hear by Capt. McElhatton whether all the recruits I sent have got safe to camp, particularly Geo. Cook, by whom I shall loose 600 dollars if he does not, also William Stephens for whom I have Engaged to pay his third Bounty to keep him out of Goal. I have also retained Ludwick Pools bounty for same acct.

Francis Hickman, one of the Pennsylv^a Voluntiers who deserted, was lately brought to me; he offered to enlist for the War in case he was pardoned, which, by direction of ye Vice president, I promised, & he has according enlisted. Also Robert Story who formerly belonged to Capt. Corans Comp'y of Artificers but found guilty of shooting a man when Sentry, likewise pardoned.

Colo. Palfrey having informed me that when we are to be paid in the new money the Interest due thereon was to be reckoned as part of the sum to be received; this was at the Treasury Board when the many Inconveniencies attend'g it immediately struck me, & I represented the impossibility the paymasters would be under to Settle with the men, as the Interest of a Dollar is but a farthing & a Fraction a month, some farthings would be the stoppage to be made from a soldiers 6⅔ dollars, but besides the trouble we have no money small enough to settle such stoppages, nor could the men recover the loss from the persons they laid out their money with, but found the Treasury board either would or could not determine the point. I intended to give you notice of this that the Officers might take some steps to remedy the inconvenience, but considering that it is often easier to prevent a determination than get it altered when once taken I sent a memorial to Congress on the Subject.

One of the Recruits sent appears to me older than what is allowed by the recruiting instructions, tho he says he is but 41 years. The Serjeant says the people of Lancaster assured him the man is not as old as he appears, & that he marched 37 miles in one day better than most of the men. Had I been on the spot I would not have taken him, but as most of the expence was already paid I think it best to keep him.

Inclosed I send the enlistments and returns of necessaries receiv'd by the men, & what bounty each man is to receive.

I am just informed with yours of the 5th and extremely sorry to learn that you have been unwell, but hope you have thoroughly got the better of your fever. It was with much reluctance I mentioned any thing of Lt. Bigham's affair, but being very apprehensive that some of the men would take the opportunity to desert, thought I could not with propriety avoid it.

By the recruiting Instructions every man Enlisted is to receive two half Johannes, or the value in paper money here, and a third when he joins your Line.

The presedent and Council conceiving the acc'ts would be easier to Settle if kept by one person, directed I should supply Capt. Henderson with the necessary money for his recruits when he set off. I gave him three half Johannes to pay three men he inlisted when they arrived at Camp; the Council informed that at least one of them had deserted, directed that the money not paid on account of the recruits not reaching Camp should revert to the recruiting fund, and for that purpose should be paid to you or such person as you should appoint to receive it, & the same Regulation to take place in regard to other men & monies sent to camp. When Lt. Bigham took Charge of the recruits sent under his care I gave 14048 dollars to be paid to you or order for the purpose of paying each mans additional Bounty, & as for various reasons the sums were not the same to all, I inclosed, if I mistake not, an acc't what Each man was to receive; but least I should have Omitted it I send a Copy, & shall be obliged to you if you'll desire the person to whom you commit the receipt and payment of these monies to send me an account of such Men as may desert before they receive their 3d bounty, otherwise I shall not have it in my power to settle the Genl. Acct. Capt. McElhatton carries Ten thousand Dollars for that use to be paid you or order.

I did not much approve of sending the recruits I raised through the Channell of the Militia, but having no Other was Obliged to embrace it, & am at a loss how I shall forward such as I raise in future. I now send 84 Volunteers and 16 Recruits, Viz.,—11 mentioned in the beginning of this Letter, 4 Raised yesterday, & one returned from the Hospit'l. Hickman & Story have both deserted. Colol. Humpton informs me the latter was a Deserter from his Regiment.

I fear this epistle will tire your patience, therefore shall only add that

I am with respect Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servt.,
LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Inv'ds.

Sunday Morning.

P. S. A member I met at the Coffee House last night told me that Congress referr'd my memorial to a Committee whose report

was so favourable that a resolve was made that no Interest should be charged on Monies paid to the Army 'till further order of Congress.

As I foresaw no money could be procured from ye Board of War, only a Warrant on the pay mas'r Genl., whose Coffers are empty, being anxious to get the men off I procured 2000 Dollars from the Treasurer of this City. The num'r of Recruits having encreased I send you 2000 dollrs. more.

Majr. Genl. St. Clair or Officer Commandg. penna. Line.

—

No. 11.

Philadelp'a, 26th Sepr., 1780.

Sir,

I am informed by Capt. McElhatton that I omitted mention'g in my last to you that I had sent 2000 dollars additional to the 10,000 mentioned before this augmentation of the sum I thought requisite as I sent more recruits than I at first expected.

I was much surprised to find so few of the recruits had arrived at Camp. The Captain informs me two fell sick, but on his return he met them proceeding in the baggage Waggons belonging to Colonel Pickering, who had been so obliging as to grant them permission as the party that went out with the Recruits were so strong I had not the least doubt of their getting safe.

Desertion appears to me to be now a kind of Trade much Encouraged I believe by the great linity shown numbers of them who richly deserve to suffer the severity of the Law.

The Invalid Regiment lies so conveniently here for Privateers that we loose a surprising number.

I send under the care of Serjt. Anderson of the 3d Pennsylva. four Recruits, Vizt., Michl. Loughery, formerly a Serjt. in the first when he inlisted. I promised I would request of you to return him to his former Regt., which I shall be much Obliged to you for if not inconsistant with your plan of distribution. The other three are boys whom I Enlisted at the desire of Colonl. Harmer who told me your line was in great want of musick; of these Golden & Oliver appear to be apprentices who have been claimed by their Mast'rs but they have given them up on the terms prescribed by the act of assembly, (Vizt.,) receiving their bounty and pay during the time of their Servitude unexpired, which is 4 years for Golden and 3½ for Oliver. I must therefore request you will order their respective paymast'rs to retain their pays. Only Loughrey and Campbell are to receive their 3d Bounties.

Capt. McElhatton told me that you had assured him the 2nd french fleet was arrived, an event which I hope will prove of much beneficial Consequence to us, but of which no official account was last night received by Congress.

I sincerely wish you an ample harvest of Laurels and assure you that

I am Sir,

Your most H'ble Servt.,

LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Inv'ds.

Inclosed I send the Inlistment of John Clark, a 7 months man who deserted. Hickman is with Clark in the new Goal and Cost 3£ hard money to the State, money I believe thrown away, as I doubt much that either of them will ever do the public three pennyworth of Service as Soldiers.

I have detained Loughrey on acct. of his speaking German, I being acquainted in Lancaster County, to assist my Serjeant; he has behaved very well.

Majr. Genl. St. Clair or Officer Command'g Pennsy'a Line.

No. 12.

Philadelp'a, 6th Octo'r, 1780.

Sir,

I send you by Serjt. Murthwaite of the Invalid Regt. seven Recruits which I flatter myself will all arrive safe as the Serjt. is a very smart active man, and will be careful not to lose any enlisted by him. I am informed a deserter is Confined in Trenton Goal that is supposed to be one of my Recruits. I have directed Murthwait to enquire for him and if he is and he thinks he can safely conduct him to take him to camp. Inclosed are the muster roll and a return of necessaries drawn.

Permit me to Congratulate you on our late providential Escape, & to assure you that

I am with Respect Sir,

Your Most Obedt. Servant,

LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Inv'ds.

Majr. Genl. St. Clair or Officer Command'g pennsy'a Line.

No. 13.

Philadelp'a, 27th Novr., 1780.

Sir,

The Bearer Serjt. Murthwait has under his care 7 Recruits which I hope he will deliver safe in Camp. I should have sent them sooner but waited for an opertunity to send for a supply of money to pay their 3d Bounty, but have not found one Since I received the money from the Treasurer, nor am I certain of it now, having

only Colol. Humptons Information that Colonl. Harmer was to return to camp ye begining of this week. I wrote to the Colonl. on Saturday. I have since sent several times but received no other information but that he has not been at his Lodgings since nor could his Servt. give any Notice where his Master was gone. In expectation of his setting out or that some other oportunity will offer in time, I send the men.

Among the Enlistments you will find one for James Fisher, a 7 months man who never joined the Army; he was brought to me with other deserters and Enlisted to serve during the War. There are upwards of Twenty deserters from your army in Goal, most of them from the pennsylva. Line. I would willingly send them to Camp but cannot meet with any proper escort going to camp.

When I got thus far I recd. a letter from Colonl. Harmer informing me he would not set out this Week; I shall therefore look out for an Earlier Opertunity. An acct. has also been brought to me that Adam Hamilton, one of my Recruits, has been arrested by the Sheriff for a debt real or pretended, but I hope to get him again, for which purpose I keep his Enlistmt.

Permit me to assure you

I am with respect Sir,

Your most Obedt. Servt.,

LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Inv'ds.

Major Genl. St. Clair or Officer Command'g pennsylva. Line.

—

No. 14.

Mount Kemble, Decr. 10th, 1780.

Sir,

I have received two Letters from you address'd to Genl .St. Clair or officer commanding the pennsylva. Line the last dated the 29th, Ultimo, mentioning Ten thousand Dollars to pay the 3d, Bounty to the Recruits, but as you did not say what that bounty is, or who those are to whom it is delivd., I shall not Issue any part of it, untill I hear further from you on this Subject.

Several of the first recruits you sent to Camp in the Summer complain that they have not receiv'd their full bounty.

I am next to inform you that two of the last Recruits under the Conduct of Serjt. Murthwait deserted on their way to Camp, and three more the same evening, they arrived, all belonging to the Convention Troops.

I have Suspicion of your Serjt. he certainly Imposes upon the Country by Inlisting Brittish desetrs. who remain only a few days in Camp with a view to Debauch our Soldiers, and then Effect their escape to ye Enemy. had the money appropriated to this

Service in Philadelphia been Transmitted to the army we could have Secured a Considerable number of good Soldiers, among the Seven months men, howevr. it is now too late to Correct the Error, as a few days will put a period to their term of Service.

I am Sir, your most Obedt.
& very Humble Servt.
ANTY. WAYNE.

Colol. Nicola.

—

No. 15.

Philada. 16 Decr. 1780.

Sir,

I take the opportunity of Corpl. Smith, of the 10th, going to Camp to send you two recruits which I hope will arrive safe & a rturn of the necessaries they receiv'd here are inclosed. The 29th, last month I gave Lt. Wigton 10, 000 dollars to be paid to Genl. St. Clair to pay the 3d. Bounty to recruits sent to Camp which I suppose he has paid to you.

Three of the last recruits sent to camp found their way here as soon as the party that conducted them, they were all Goal Birds taken out by ordr. of Council, they are all in the new Goal & shall go back safe if Iron can secure them, if they have not already received their bounty I beg they may not, as a half Johannes has been paid for apprehending each. I have such reliance on your equity that I make no doubt of their being properly rewarded.

Permit me to assure you, that I am with respect,

Yr. most Obedt. Servt.

LEWIS NICOLA Col. Ind.

To Genl. Wayne, or officer commanding Pennsylv. Camp.

—

No. 16.

Philadelphia Decemr. 19th, 1780.

Your favour of the 10th Currt. I received yesterday Informing me of the Rect. of 10, 000 Dollars but that you were uninformed how it shoud be applied, having giving all requisit information on that head in a former letter to Genl. St. Clair. I did not think it necessary to repeat it.

Every recruit is entitled to 3 half Johannes or an Equivalent in paper money, the last of which is not to be paid till the man goes to Camp, which bounty I request you will order to be paid to the Recruits not yet paid, that they shoud. not have any just Cause of Complaint, I have at different times sent 36, 048 dollars for this purpose.

Serjt. Murthwait informed me on his return that one man deserted from him on the march, you mention two. I have again examined

& he still persists in having lost only one and that he delivered the others to the officers appointed by you to receive them, as to the three you mention to have deserted the evening they reached camp, I have wrote to you about them in my letter of the 16th, Inst.

I am sorry to hear the Complaints against the Serjeant, whose behaviour for near three years in the Regiment has never given any of his officers the least cause of Suspicion.

I have employed him in the Recruiting Service, because on tryal I found him the most capable of any of the Serjeants in the Invalid Regimt. I shou'd be glad to know what foundation there is for the Charge that may be brought to Tryal if cupable.

In answer to the last paragraph of your letter, I can only inform you that I was Ignorant of the Scheme to recruit till sent for by council & informed thereof & received my orders & Instructions.

Unwilling to lie under the least imputation that can affect my Character as an officer or a Gentlemen, I have applied for an enquirey into my Conduct in the recruiting Service, and ye, Council have appointed this evening for that purpose when Genl. St. Clair has promised to attend, I requested the same favour of Colonl. Harmer, & that he wou'd produce Colonl Butlers letter containing pointed charges but he has declined both as the letter was a private one, & he had no authority to produce it on a public Examination.

I hope you will receive a Supply of hard money to induce the 7 months men to Enlist, as Mr. Joseph Dean informed me last night that 600 had been already Subscribed for that purpose.

Permit me to assure you, that I am with,

respect, Sir, your most obedt. Servt.

LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Ind.

To Genl. Waine at the Head Qrs. of the pennsyla. Line.

Pres. Reed to Gen. Washington, 1780.

Sir,

I am to acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellys Favour of the Inst. appointing the Places of Deposit for the specifick Articles required by Congress. Some Difficulties have arisen with Respect to Wyoming which the Inhabitants of this State do not consider as of Continental Importance but only as holding a Possession for the State of Connecticut, in Consequence they think it hard to supply it from the State of Pennsylvania. Besides which there are Complaints of Abuses in entering the Settlers as Soldiers & drawing Rations—every Officer & Soldier under Col. Butler from Connecticut is a Landholder under the Connecticut Claim it was therefore proposed that Connecticut should support it as a State Post, or in Case that State declined it Pennsylvania should take it up without any Charge

to the United States—Representations were made to Congress & the inclosed Resolve has passed in Consequence of which we wait your Excellr Determination to make the Arrangements for the ensuing Season.

I have the Honour to be

your Excellys Obed. Hble Servt.*

Indorsed,

Dec. 19, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Gen. Washington.

Pres. Reed to Saml. Rea, 1780.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 8th Inst.† is before me & in Answer acquaint you that in the Opinion of the Council the Season of the Year will now afford a sufficient Protection to the Frontiers—you will therefore call on the Militia, collect the Fines, & make Return of the Monies agreeable to Law, so that those who have turned out may be paid. You did quite right in lessening the Numbers & Council very much approve your dismissing the Men from the three Battalions.

I am Sir,

your Hble Serv.

J. R.

Indorsed,

Dec. 19th, 1780.

Directed,

Col. Saml. Rea, Lieut. of Northampton County.

John Van Campen to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Easton, December 19th, 1780.

Respective Sir,

I have the Pleasure to Inform your Excelency this day Nicholas Depui, Esqr, has taken his seat as President of the Court of General Quarter Sessions agreeable to his Commission. It seems to be agreeable to all the Magistrates and the Gentlemen of the Law, more so to the People at Large.

I think it my duty to Communicate to your Exellency the Alarm

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p 574.

† See page 640.

of the Connecticut Gentlemen in Possession at Wyoming, In Regard to your Exelency ordering to stop the sending of Flour.

After holding a Consultation by those Gentlemen on the Subject, they have sent six of their Principal men to the state of Connecticut to Lay their case before the Governor & Council and Demand Protection. I Expect it will be in my Power to Inform Councill of the Success and the Encouragement they Obtain from the state of Connecticut when I come down; which I expect will be the Second of January.

I have the Honour Sir to be

your Exelencys most Obedt

Humble Servt,

JOHN V. CAMPEN.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolution of Assembly, 1780.

State of Pennsylvania, In General Assembly.

Monday, 20th December, 1780.

On motion made & seconded,

Resolved, That the honourable Thomas McKean, Esquire, Chief Justice of this Commonwealth, be and he hereby is permitted to occupy and possess the House and Lots, with the appurtenances, late the Property of the Revd Jacob Duche, the younger; until the first day of July next, and until the further order of the General Assembly.

Extract from the Minutes,

SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.†

Pres. Reed to Wm. Henry, &c., 1780.

Sir,

This will be delivered you by the Count de Deux Ponts, a Colonel of a Regiment in the Service of the King of France, now at Rhode Island. I must request your Attention & Civility to him, not only on Acct of his own Merit, which is very great, but as he may have some Influence on some of his poor deluded Countrymen who cannot be

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII. p. 585.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 578.

weaned from their absurd Attachment to Great Brittain. For this Purpose I would wish if it is practicable he could have Opportunities to converse with the German Clergymen & such Persons of Influence of that Nation as might tend to remove Prejudice, convince them of the Utility & Honour of our Independence, shew them the Certainty of its being established, & the Necessity of their supporting cheerfully the War for the attainment of that glorious Object—reconcile them to a Government founded thereupon & in Fact undo what the Hessian & British Officers have been doing with so much Industry for some time past.

Your Care herein will do the State a real Service & oblige

Sir your Obed. Hble

P. S. He proposes to go to Lebanon & Reading. I shall be glad you would give him Letters to suitable Persons there.

Indorsed,

1780, December 21st, To Wm. Henry, Hon. Wm. Atlee, Hon. Samuel Atlee, Esq., Philip Marsteller, Col. Valentine Eckhart & Henry Haller.

Assembly to Pres. Reed, 1780.

In general Assembly,
Dec. 21st, 1780.

Sir,

The House Direct me to inclose for your Excellency's Perusal the Report of a committee of this House, on the Subject of Quartermasters & Comissaries Certificates, which was laid before a Committee of Congress, & the answer of the latter thereto. I am further directed to request Your Excellency's & the Honble the Councils Opinion thereon, I have the honour to be with the highest Respect and Esteem.

Your Excellencys most obedient
& very humble Servt,
FREDK. A. MUHLENBURG,
Speaker.

His Excellency the President of the State.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Circular.

Philadelphia, December 22, 1780.

Sir,

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed, the Copy of an Act of Congress of this Day together with the Extract of a Letter from the Commander in Chief to which the Act refers.

The Nature & Importance of the Subject is so fully stated in the Inclosures, and the Necessity of a Compliance with the requisition so obvious, it would be superfluous to attempt any additional Motives to call forth the effectual Exertions of the respective States to compleat their Quotas of the federal Army, with the necessary supplies.

I have the Honor to be with every Sentiment
of respect & Esteem your Excellency's
most obedient & most humble servant,

SAM. HUNTINGTON President.

P. S. Similar Copies were by the Delegates of this state handed to the assembly for the sake of dispatch.

His Excellency The president of Pennsylvania.

Extract of a Letter from Genl. Washington to Congress, 1780.

Extract of a letter from Genl Washington to Congress, Dated Head quarters near New Windsor, Decr 15th, 1780.

"A Paragraph in the enclosed New York paper, Confirms that part of the letter of the 17th of October from Europe, which your Excellency has been pleased to transmit to me, which mentions the Intentions of the british administration to send further reinforcements to america. This is a matter which cannot, in my Opinion, be too soon communicated to the several States, with a pressing solicitation to take the measures that will effectually fill up their regiments in the course of the winter. From what I can learn, some are putting the matter upon the very precarious footing of voluntary enlistments, and others substituting fines where the men demanded are not produced in the several districts. I am very much mistaken, if by the first mode any considerable number of men are to be raised at this time of day—and, from the latitude given in the last, money will, in many instances, be paid to excuse personal service—The last hope of the enemy is built upon our inability to raise a new army, and they are probably preparing to push us in our enfeebled state; —The means of reestablishing ourselves, with proper & spirited exertions, are within our reach; and should they in the spring, instead of only the remnants of our veteran Regiments, meet Battalions filled with men whose services are permanent, they must either give up their object of choice, or with the assistance of our allies, we shall be in a condition to force them to it.

The accession of Holland & Portugal to the northern league of neutrality will be, undoubtedly, very embarrassing to Great Britain —But this, I think, may be relied upon: that the more she is insulted and oppressed by the European powers, the more she will

endeavour to revenge herself upon us—she can make no impression upon them, and she will therefore bend her whole force against us, in hopes of possessing herself of such an extent of territory in america, as will enable her to insist upon terms, should a negotiation take place, which may be highly derogatory to the honor & Interests of these States."

Resolution of Congress, 1780.

In Congress, December 22d, 1780.

Resolved,

That the paragraph of the letter from the commander in chief of the 15th Instant, which points out the pressing necessity of effectual measures for recruiting the army to its full complement, be immediately communicated to the respective legislatures or Executives. And they are earnestly required by the most decided and vigorous exertions, not only to urge forward their respective quotas of troops without loss of time; but to furnish the supplies of provisions & money assigned for their support, with such punctuality as will put the commander in chief in a condition, with the co-operation of our ally, under the divine blessing, to compel the Enemy to relinquish their object of subjugating these States, and secure to us an honorable and permanent peace. And Congress once more remind the States, that the public safety essentially depends on their complying, without reserve or delay, with the measures adopted for an active and decisive campaign.

Extract from the minutes,
CHA THOMSON, Sec'y.

Pres. Reed to Assembly, 1780.

Sir,

The Nature of the Letter addressed to this Board by the Hon. House on the 21 Inst.* making it more proper to return an Answer which will not necessarily be entered upon the Minutes, we have given it & the inclosed Papers all the Consideration which Mr Hopkinson's Trial would admit—The Result of which is, that we apprehend the making the Certificates of Qr Masters' & Commissaries' certificates receivable in Taxes, farther than they are at present, will be of ruinous consequence to the publick, & soon end in a total Extinction of all Revenues, &, of course, a Dissolution of the Government, which cannot continue without Supplies of this Nature—That the Army will soon feel the Effects in a fatal Degree, as it will be impracticable to continue to furnish them with those Articles which have, during the stoppage of their Pay, been their

* See page 685.

principal Dependence & Support—Under this alarming Prospect, we see no Means of immediate Relief at this late Day in the sessions, but for the House to make their Adjournm^t short—to pass a Vote confirmatory of the foreign Loan now in Negotiation, & to appoint a Committee to bring in a Bill early next Sessions to provide a Fund for the Payment of the interest in Specie, & to appropriate some Part of the remaining Property of the State, or some certain productive Revenue, to the Payment of the Principal; such Revenue to be applied to that Purpose at the Expiration of three or 5 Years;—Without some thing of this Nature, there is great Reason to fear the whole Scheme will fail, a very great Expence be entirely lost, & the publick Credit which the Measure will support, sink into irrecoverable Ruin. That the same Committee be instructed in s^d Bill to provide for the Payment of the Interest of the State Money annually, in Specie, by a specifick Tax. That the Faith of the present Assembly be engaged in such Terms as to convey to foreigners the fullest Assurance of an honourable Repayment of the Monies Mr Searle may borrow, to be transmitted by the Council without any Delay. These are the only Measures occurring to the Council, & which we submit to the Consideration of the House as our candid Sentiments on their Letter.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

—

Whereas, the great & unavoidable Pressure of publick Business, at this Sessions has prevented the framing a Bill to provide Funds to repay the Principal & Interest of such Sums as may be borrowed in Europe, by the Hon. Mr Searle, agreeable to a Vote of the last House of Assembly, which may occasion some Delay of that important Business—Resolved, That this House doth confirm the Stipulations & Engagements entered into by the last previous House to procure a foreign Loan, & do engage the Faith & Honour of the State to repay all Sums of Money, both Principal & Interest, agreeable to the Letters of Credence & Instructions given to the s^d Mr Searle, which have been communicated to the House, & are hereby approved & ratified

Resolved, That ———

be a Committee to prepare a Bill to be presented at the next Sessions, to provide for the punctual Repayment of all Monies procured upon the af^d Loan, both Principal & Interest—The Fund for the Payment of the Principal, to be productive at the End of Years, & the Interest Fund to be productive forthwith.

Resolved, That the same Committee be instructed to provide for the Payment of the Interest on the State Money annually, so as to give the same more general & established Credit.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1780.

War Office, December 26, 1780.

Sir,

Conrad Latour who was a Lieut in Schotts Corps & has been four years in the Service of the U. States in which he was twice wounded being broke for some unofficer like Behavior afterwards enlisted in the French Army in which I believe he is a Serjeant. The Officer of the French Army represents that Latour is sued for *sixteen hard Dollars* & detained in Jail. What the Law of the State is upon this Subject the Board are unacquainted with. There was a recommendation of Congress to the States that they should enact Laws to prevent Suits against Soldiers for a less sum than *forty Dollars* but as the Money is depreciated it is supposed that advantage is taken of this Circumstance. Be this as it may the Board having no Authority in the Case have thought it best to state the Matter to your Excellency that if any thing can be done you may be pleased to put the French Officer (Mr. Jennings) in the Way of relieving the prisoner as it is presumed to be politic to treat the French Soldiers on a Footing with our own.

I have the Honor to be
with very sincere Esteem
your obed't Serv't,
RICHARD PETERS.

Directed,

His Excell^y Jos. Reed Esq., President.

Pres. Reed to James Potter 1780.

Sir,

A Subscription having been compleated amounting to £ Specie for the Purpose of reinlisting such Soldiers as would otherwise have been discharged you will proceed to camp with the s^d sum & with the Assistance of Genl Wayne, & the Colonels of the Regiments execute the above Business so as to extend the Utility of the Money as far as possible. At this Distance & under the present Circumstances it is not practicable to give any particular Directions, farther than that we think you should first inform yourself how many Recruits are likely to be engaged & the Proportions of the different Regiments & then apportion the Money as nearly as possible after which you will call upon the oldest Regiments to send their Recruits to some Place where with the Assistance you will receive you will engage them by signing an Inlistment & Attestation of which you will have Blanks with you—these being done & a Description

of cash Recruit will be proper or the Inlistment together with a Receipt for the Money to be particular in taking an account of the Monies paid so as that a satisfactory Account may be rendered to the Subscribers. You will also be pleased to ascertain the Number of Recruits sent last Summer under a former Subscription as far as it can be done.

Dcember 27, 1780.

Indorsed,
To Hon'ble James Potter Esquire.

SECY. MATLACK TO JOHN REYNOLDS, (SHERIFF,) 1780.

Philadelphia, Decr 29th, 1780.

Sir,

His Excel'ency the President & the council order me to desire that you will take the most effectual measures immediately to prevent the frauds committed at the grate of the Goal of this city by Criminals under confinement there. Such practices as they are guilty of not only become greatly injurious but tend to harden men in the practice of the most daring villany and if such are not prevented or punished there is reason to fear they will by impunity be induced to commence Highwaymen & robbers whenever they shall be enlarged.

If there be no other mode of preventing such practices the villains concerned in it must be kept in rooms separate from the other prisoners.

I am respectfully
your very humble servant,
T. M.

Directed,
To John Reynolds Esqr, Sheriff.

GEN. ST. CLAIR TO PRES. REED, 1780.

Potts Grove, Decr 29th, 1780.

Gentlemen,

The Distress that has arisen from the long want of Money in the publick Offices has amongst many others reached me, and lays me under the Necessity of applying to your Board, that you would be pleased to make an Order in my favour on the Treasurer of the State for a sum of Money (to be accounted for with the Auditors appointed or to be appointed in consequence of the late Law for settling the accounts of the Army) in order to enable me to discharge some Debts I have been unavoidably obliged to contract, to make some preparation for the Command in Jersey, which I must take upon me in a very short

time, and to make some Provision for my Family during my absence, none of which my private Circumstances from a variety of Causes which it is unnecessary to trouble the Board with, allow me at present to do.

The Favour will be very gratefully acknowledged by.

Gentlemen

your most Obedient

and very humble Servant

AR. ST. CLAIR.*

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed Esquire, President and the honourable the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania.

Matthew Smith to Pres. Reed, 1780.

Dear Sir,

Inclos'd I send the Examination of Thomas Conely, (Taken at Wyoming, & transmited to me by Thomas Neil) who Came from Niagara with a party of 20 Whites & five Indians, they Carry'd away one Harveys Family Near Wyoming, Six Men & Boys in Number Harveys Daughter and one Other Girl they Sent Back after haveing them Some time and leading them off a Considerable Distance, they made this Stroke on the Night of the 6th Inst., and that same Night Conely Deserted from them, he is Inlisted in that Corps called Ottendorffs, he Spread a Report that about the time he Set out from Niagara one Thonop, an Indian Captain was to Set out from the Above post, with 30 Indians & intended their Stroke in the Forks, it Alarm'd the Inhabitants Much as they were not to Make any prisoners but Murder all that came in their way, he also Added the two partys was to have Come out together, but Differ'd in Sentiments about the mode of their War, the Whites Determin'd to make prisoners, & the other Savages to Murder all they Could, without Distinction of age or Sex, the Acct Reach'd this place About the time the Lancr County Militia, was Setting off for their respective Homes, we are lately in hopes they will not be able to make their Intended Stroke, as the River & Creeks are now pretty high & Driveing thick with ice, but we fear they may hover on our Fronteer Dureing the Winter and Give us an Early Stroke in the Spring, I have so often Solicited for the poor Suffering Frontier that I am afraid I may be Counted Troublesome, but knowing your Disposition to have Been Ever for the Support of the Country, I would once More Crave your interposition, for Some assistance early as possible in the Spring.

Further I would Request your Opinion of the Resolve of Congress

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 591.

friday May 21st, 1779, Respecting the Quota of forty five Millions of Dollars, as it Stands the Whole Sum is Quotad to twelve of the States, and after Comes these Words "Georgia being invaded is hereafter to Raise her proportion" I mean Whether it is a part of the Above 45 Millions here Mentioned or only a proportionable part of later Taxations—also of the Resolve of January Tuesday 5th, 1779 Where the Sum of 15,000,000 is Quotad to twelve States & Georgia hath its Number only 000000. My Reason is we have lately had the Tax laid in this County, and a few days ago the Appeal, Where a Number of Gentlemen stood up in Opposition to Paying any State Tax Alledging the Honble Assembly Never intended any of the Back Countys should pay any Tax their Distresses being So Great, and as an Argument, produc'd the above Resolves of Congress in favour of Georgia at the same time Alledging the people of is plainly Exempted—if any late News foreign or Domestick, I will thank you for the Acctr & a few late papers.

I am Dr Sir,

your Most Obt. Humble Servt.,

MATTw SMITH.

Sunbury, Dec. 30th, 1780.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

Hond by Mr Reese.

STATEMENTS REFERRED TO IN FOREGOING, 1780.

Garrison, Wyoming, Decr 7th, 1780,

This day Came to the Post Thomas Connelly a Deserter from a Party of the Enemy of Twenty white men and five Indians who left Niagaria Twenty Two Days before they Arrived here, he Says he is Originally from Ireland is 20 years of age Came to this Country in 1772 and has been a Servant to one Thomas Williams an Indian Trader, most of the time among the Indians, But his Time was out with his Master about a year ago he then engaged in the Rangers Service with Tory Butler, he says that the Post of Niagara is Commanded by Genl Powell who took that Command in Feb'y Last the Number of Troops of whitemen consists of about Six Hundred Including the Rangers—the Indians are Very Unsteady Sometimes Near Two Thousand Men Women & Children who all Draw Rations; that in Octr. Last the Ontario a new Ship of 20 Guns was lost on the lake Colo Boston with about 350 Men of the 34th Regt who were Going to Canada all Perished—he also Informs that about Two Months ago John Monture, One of the Indian head warriors, was Killed near this Post By a Small party that Came Across them from

Wyoming as they was on their Return from Fort Allen, and that before he Engag'd in the British Service he has lived at Detroit and says that Detroit is very thick Settled with Inhabitants, about forty miles in Length, favourable Inclin^d towards the Country but dar'd not appear open in it, that they have built a New fort there, and the Garrison Consists of about 300 Commanded by Capt Bird.

He Says that Butler & Brant had Return^d to Niagara from their Expedition to the Mohawk River and Johnson was Gone Doun to Canada and Did not come that way.

Officers to Assembly, 1780.

The Honorable

The Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met.

Gent^n:

We take the liberty of informing you, that not having received any Pay from the Continent for a considerable time past & being destitute of the necessary Cash to defray our several Expences, while on the Business of the Line, with your Honble House, we therefore applied to the Honorable Board of War for a supply of Money, wch we received, but it being of the Massachusetts Emission, on this account, it wou'd not answer our exigency, as we cou'd pass it only at the Rate of 40 for 1. We have therefore return'd it, and since applied to his Excell^y The President who is very desirous of serving us on this occasion, on condition your Honourable House will empower him so to do, by a Resolve or Vote of your House for this purpose. This requisition we trust will meet your approbation, as it is solely founded in necessity. We presume that about Nine Hundred or a Thousand State Dollars will suffice.

We have the honor
to subscribe ourselves
Your most obt. Servants,

F. JOHNSTON, Col.,
RICH^d HUMPTON, Col.,
JOS. HARMAR, Lt Col.

Philad., December 19th, 1780.

Directed,

The Honorable The House of Assembly.

Committee of Congress to Committee of Assembly, 1780.

The Committee appointed by Congress to confer with a Committee of the General Assembly of Pensylvania on the subject of the Quota of the new emission of money assigned to that state have received their state of facts, and have now the honor of laying before the said committee the following information.

That the debt of twenty millions of dollars computed to be due to the inhabitants of Pensylvania upon quarter masters & commissaries certificates have not been unprovided for by Congress, but arises from the unpunctuality of the respective states in complying with the requisitions of Congress. It appears from a general abstract of the treasury books now before this Committee that the states are in arrears on the respective requisitions as far as the accounts were furnished to the 4th of December last, 176,955,367$\frac{67}{90}$ dollars, a sum sufficient to have discharged the quarter masters & commissaries certificates & supported the public credit in a very great degree.

That the supplies of the inhabitants on the credit of the certificates extend to all the other states as well as Pensylvania, and is the same obstacle in all to the payment of taxes; and it is also represented that their treasuries are equally exhausted: And there can therefore be no prospect that any of them will be in condition to supply the public exigencies, if these certificates should pass in payment of the taxes directed to be levied for the purpose of issuing and giving credit to the new emission.

That by the abstract from the books of the treasury the account of Pensylvania is thus stated.

State of Pensylvania.

Congress on the 1 July, 1780, drew two warrants on the president & supreme executive council in favour of Michael Hillegas, treasurer of the United States, one for		1796950
& the other for the balance due from that state up to the 1 March, 1780.		4569040
Both the said warrants unpaid.		
Taxes due from 1 March, 1780, to the 1 December following, agreeably to the resolution of Congress of the 18 March, 1780, nine months, the quota being 2,300-000 dollars per month, amounts to 20,700,000, from which is to be deducted a warrant drawn Nov. 17, 1780, in favr of commissary Blaine,	208,049$\frac{80}{90}$	20,431,950$\frac{80}{90}$
ballance,		26,797,940$\frac{80}{90}$

If this is a just statement it will be found that supposing the inhabi-

tants of Pensylvania to be creditors of the public to the amount of twenty millions dollars on certificates, there is still a large arrear due from them on their quota of the taxes.

Congress rely on a compliance with the act of the 18 of March, for the support of the war, they foresee the deepest distress if it should not be carried into effect with the utmost dispatch.

The public treasury is exhausted; the public debts considerable; the army unpaid for near a year; the quarter master's branch distressed.

Under these circumstances the committee of the assembly of Pensylvania will consider the effect of the regulations proposed in their representation and give the weight to our suggestions which they shall appear to merit.

JA^s DUANE, } Committee of
JESSE ROOT. } Congress.

THOMAS MIFFLIN,
GERARDUS WYNKOOP,
JONATHAN HOGE,
JOHN HARRIS. } Esq^rs.

Committee of the general Assembly
of the state of Pensylvania.

Philad^a, Decr 20, 1780.

Extract from General Orders, 1781.

Extract from General Orders, Dated Head Quarters, New Windsor, January 1st, 1781.

"The Non-Commissioned Officers and Matrasses of the Independent Company of Artillery, Commanded by Captain Coren, are to be added to & incorporated with the Company Commanded by Captn Porter, now in the 2^d Reg^t of Artillery; And the Non-Commissioned Officers and Matrasses of the Company Commanded by Captn Freeman are to be added to and incorporated with Captn Simonds Company in said Reg^t. Captains Porter & Simonds Companies are to be Leveled with the Men of the Two Companies which are Incorporated with them and being raised in Pennsylvania are to be added to Col. Proctors Regiment of Artillery. The Officers of the two Companies Commanded by Captains Porter and Simonds are to be arranged in Col. Proctors Regiment of Artillery agreeable to the Rank they *now* hold."

A Copy.

Names of the Officers in Captains Porter & Simonds Companies.

Captain,	Andrew Porter,	Captain,	Jonas Simonds,
Captn L^t,	James McClure,	Captn L^t,	Wm. Powers,
Lieut^s,	Joseph Ashton,	Lieut.,	Saml. Doty.
	Robert Parker,		
	*Ezra Patterson,		
	Ezekiel Howell.		

* Patterson has since Resigned.

The Rank of those as well as all other Officers of Artillery in the Continental Army was finally determined by several Boards of Officers appointed for that purpose—approved of by his Excellency Genl. Washington — Published in Genl. Orders as well as those Issued in the Brigade of Artillery—a Return of which was made to the Board of War & Certified by the Honorable Henry Knox, Brigadier General of Artillery. This Return is still to be seen in the War Office, and hath ever since been the invariable Rule for determining Rank in the Corps of Artillery.

Indorsed,

Extract of General Orders, dated New Windsor, Jan. 1, 1781.

Statement of Lt. John Carothers, 1781.

That in Augt. 1779 a Large number of volunteers of the third battalion of this county now commanded by Col. Saml. Irwin march'd up to the relief of the Inhabitants of Northumberland County, at the time when fort freeland was Taken, that they were out about fifteen Days, & recd no pay nor allowance for sd. time, & that there is considerable uneassiness prevailing in the battalion on that acct. they aledging others have fared better, some perticularly mentioned in Col. Irwins Letter Inclosing this were to my certain knowledge fully Determined to march with the Last classes, and thought they might with safty take the allowance of time at the begining of their Tour, but were Disappointed by the militias being stoped at Lancaster, & they oblidged to pay the full fine.

Certified by

JNO. CAROTHERS.

Late Lt. of Cumbd. County

Jany. 2d, 1781.

To whom it may concern.

Danl. Heister, Jr. to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Upper Salford, Philada. County, Janry. 3d, 1781.

Sir,

The distressed situation of our Money Matters I hope will apologize for Troubling your Excellency with a Small Information. Last week I saw Mr. Kachlein a Sub-Lieutenant of Bucks County, he tells me that he has at least £ 20,000 now by him of publick money and has already paid upwards of £ 50,000 to Col. Hart. Considerable sums I beleive are in the Hands of some Sub- Lieutenants in this County besides what must needs be with Lieut. Coats, This Money is to be collected for the purpose of making publick purchases according to a resolution of the last day of the sitting of Assembly, but I mention this of the Sub-Lieutenants as many Gent. seemed of opinion what they had could not be worth attending to.

The seven months men from this part of the Country are chiefly come home, and I am told are begining to get uneasy about their monthly pay some people are fearing the Companies wo'd also have to pay them that, which would be attended with great trouble and discontent—would therefore beg leave to suggest whether it would not be well if Council was to direct the Lieutenants to pay this to prevent the Clamour of these people which will doubtless Injure the recruiting service.

I am with the Highest Esteem,

Your Excellency's most Obet.

and most Hble Sert.

DAN. HEISTER Jr.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr President of Council Philadelphia.

Hugh Forsman to Col. David Deshler, 1781.

Wyoming, Jany. 3, 1780.*

Sir,

By Virtue of a late Resolve of Congress Respecting furnising this Garrison with Provisions, the Commanding Officer hath Directed me to Aplay to you for sum flour and Liquor, of which I hope you will forward as soon as Possable to this Post about twenty Barrels of flour and four or five Barrels of Liquor, and Let me Know by the Bearer, Capt. Selin, when it will be on the way, that a gard may be sent to Escort it in.

* Indorsed, 1781.

the needsesaty for the flour is Great, as the troops have had neither flour nor Liquor this three months past, and been Obliged to Live on Indian meal.

When I was in Philad^a I Reec^d an Order on the Commiss^r of Comberland County for flour and Liquor, But the River got so full of Ice put it out of my power to bring it up, which Ocations our Present necessesaty.

I have procured a Copy of the Resolve above mentioned, and Do inclose it to you, as parhaps it may not be yet Published in your Papers.

I have given Captn Selino and Mr Hollenback orders on you to pay them for about two Hundred Bushels of Indian Corn, and sent receipts By them for the Receival of the Grain, which I hope you will answer, the price I give for Corn here is 5s. in Spacie and give Certificates in Pensylvania money.

Your Complyance with the within Will much Oblige

Sir your most Obd^t Humble Ser^t,

HUGH FORSMAN, C. Purch^s.

Directed,

On public service.

Coll. David Deshler,* Commissioner for Northampton County.

fay^d by Capt. Sellin.

Charles Stewart to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Trenton, Thursday night, 4 Jany., 1780.†

Sir,

I delivered Marquis Lafayette, Genl. St. Clair & Lord Sterling the Copy of the Terms proposed by the soldiery of the penn^a line to Genl. Wayne & his reply to them, these papers passed before noon to day. I left Princetown about One OClock & then thought there was a possibility of a compromise—I hear this evening that appearances are worse, and expect they will proceed for this place to morrow morning—pray come up yourself. Wayne, Butler, & Stewart, are the only officers they will permit to come among them.

This afternoon they have chosen officers to command & direct their march in future. If they chuse they can compel Craft to cross Delaware at this place, and the inhabitants of this state being ordered towards N. York to guard the stores, cannot be employed to prevent their route. The Officers of the Penn^l are ordered by Genl Wayne to be to night at Pennington to await farther Orders. They, the Troops, have Beef for three days and flour can be had, I have Ordered them well fed on purpose they might have no excuse to

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 596.

† Indorsed, 1781.

Maraud. In fact sir things are gloomy and your presence necessary. I fear British Gold and Arnolds friends are among them. I am y^r Excellencys most obed^t servant,

CHA. STEWART,
Comm'y Gen. of Issues.*

Directed,
His Excellency Governor Read, Philad^a.

SECY. MATLACK TO CAP. SAML. MORRIS, 1781.

Sir,
I am directed by His Excellency the President to request, that you will immediately order twenty of the Light horse to parade at his House at four o'clock this afternoon, ready to march immediately into New Jersey, and to order the remainder of the corps to parade and march to morrow morning.

I am with great respect,
Your most obed Servt.
T. M.

Friday, Jany. 5, 1781.
To Cap. Samuel Morris of the Light Horse.

SECY. MATLACK TO COL. S. MILES, D. Q. M. G., 1781.

To Col. S. Miles, D. Q. M. G.
Sir,
The pressing emergency requires that you furnish to Gen. Potter a very good horse by four o'clock this afternoon, If you have not a good one in your possession it is necessary that you obtain one by borrowing or impressing immediately.

By order of the Council.
T. MATLACK, Sec'y.

Jany. 5, 1781.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1781.

In Congress, Jany. 5, 1781.
Resolved, That two members be added to the committee appointed on the 3d instant to confer with the supreme executive of the state of Pensylvania on the subject matter of the intelligence

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 593.

received that day and, that the said committee be instructed to act in concert with the said executive, and fully empowered to take such measures as may appear necessary to quiet the disturbance in the Pensylvania line.

The members added Mr. Attle & Mr. Bland The Comm'ee. Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Witherspoon, Mr. Mathews, Mr. Atlee, Mr. Bland.

Extracts from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Secy.

Resolution of Congress, Jan. 5th, 1781.

In Congress, Jan'y 5th, 1781.

The Committee to whom was referred the Letter of Abraham Shinner Commissary General of Prisoners, delivered in a Report as follows.

That notwithstanding every Effort of Congress to obtain for our people Prisoners in the hands of the Enemy that Treatment which Humanity, alone should have dictated, the British Commanders unmindful of the Tenderness exercised towards their Men Prisoners in our hands, and regardless of the practice of civilized Nations, have persisted in Treating our people Prisoners in their hands with every species of Insult, outrage and Cruelty. Officers and Men are indiscriminately thrown into the Hold of Prison Ships, and into loathsome Dungeons, and are deprived of fuel and the common Necessaries of Life, by which Means many of the Citizens of these States have been compelled to enter into their Service to avoid those distresses which a Conduct so contrary to the Law of Nations had brought upon them. Our Seamen taken upon the American coast have been sent to Great Britain and other parts beyond Seas to prevent their being exchanged or to force them to take arms against their Country.

That in the Opinion of the Committee an Exercise of the Law of Retaliation has become necessary as a Justice due to those Citizens of America, whom the fortune of War has thrown into the power of our Enemy, Whereupon,

Resolved, that Copies of the Letter of Mr A. Shinner and the other papers referred be transmitted to the Commander in Chief, and that he be directed to enquire into the manner in which our People who are Prisoners are treated by the Enemy. And that he give immediate orders to the Commanding Officers of the different posts to take particular Care that the british prisoners receive the same allowance and Treatment in every respect as our people who are prisoners receive from the Enemy.

Resolved, that it be recommended to the respective Executives to ake effectual Measures for Carrying into Execution the Act of Congress of the 13th of January, 1780, respecting Prisoners taken by the Citizens, Troops or Ships of particular States.

That the Board of Admiralty issue Orders not to exchange any british Sea Officer or Seaman until the Enemy shall have returned to some of their Garrisons in America such Seamen as they have taken on the American Coast, and have sent to Great Britain or other parts beyond sea, And that the Board of War and Board of Admiralty give orders for continuing the Treatment of Prisoners as herein directed until they receive orders to the Contrary from Congress or the Commander in Chief.

Extract from the Minutes,
CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Gen. St. Clair to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Morris Town, Jan'y 7th, 1781.

Sir,

Mr Donaldson would inform you of the ill Success of the Embassy The Marquis & myself were sent upon, and the short Notice we received to leave Prince Town—We thought it prudent to take the Mutineers* at their Words, as there was no Prospect of our being of any Service, and it was not improbable they might think it, upon second Consideration, adviseable to detain Us: & we have heard that they have since made Genl Wayne, Colonells Butler & Stewart Prisoners, & admit no Person to see them but thro' the Committee. hey were impatient to see your Excellency or some of the Council of Pennsylvania; but their Demands are so extravagant, and they got on so smoothly hitherto, that I have no hopes of any thing but Force reducing them to Reason.

The Ennemy have made no movements yet in Consequence of this Affair, and it may be that they are so much weakened by their late Detachments as not to be able to spare a sufficient Body—but I am persuaded that if they were in Jersey great Numbers would desert to them, as it is certain that british Emmissarys have set this Matter a going, and many of them have confessed to us that it was proposed to them to lead them all there—This, however, they nobly refused.

The General is not yet arrived, and some Appearance of similar disposition in the Jersey Troops induced Colonel Barber, who commands them, to move them to Chatham; so that we are here in a very awkward Situation, and have this moment heard that they have sent some Person to bring off the remaining few—perhaps a hundred, and all the Stores, and we have not a Soul to prevent it—the Militia being all out already—This may not be true; but if it is attempted it must be prevented at all Hazards.

I have the Honour to be,
Sir, your most obedient Servant,
A^r St Clair.

* For various papers, letters, &c., respecting the revolt of the Pennsylvania line, see my "Register of Pennsylvania," Vol. II., p. 136—&c.

DAVID DESHLER TO COL. JACOB MORGAN, 1781.

Allentown, Jan'ry 8th, 1781.

Dear Sir,

I have sent my Son in Law down after Cash. I have applyed to Colo Blain by Mr. Joseph Keyser, Condr of the Cooper Factory; have got no Cash from him. I understand by Mr. Keyser, that Colo Blain was from home. As I have purchased considerable more than I have received Cash for, I request you'll supply me by the bearer, as the Country people is not willing to wait any longer, nor supply any more without Cash. Colo Butler, at Wyoming, has applyed to me for Flour and Liquor, as the navigation down Susquehannah at this time is stopt by the frost. I purpose to send him two Loads flour and one Load of whiskey against the 13th Instant, to be at Larner's for them; if you think it advisable I should send any more or not, please to give your Instructions by the bearer. I purpose to close my General returns to the last of this month and hopes shortly after to be down with them. If the Coopers is only to work for this State, as there is a good many Flour Casks on hand, I think about four hundred, there will be no occation for so many Coopers to be supplyed at this Factory. Colo Butler Informs me if there was Cash sent up to Wyoming, there is Grain enough to be purchased there to supply that post; if I have orders and money, the Carriage of Provisions to that place might be saved. Have not to Add, but am, Dear Sir,

your most obedient hble. Servt.,
DAVID DESHLER.*

P. S.—If there is any fix'd Salary for Assistants and Clerks, should be glad to know it—if not, I should be desirous of your advise what to give.

Directed,

Colo Jacob Morgan, State Comy in Philadelphia.
℞ favour Mr. Charles Deshler.

PRES. OF CONGRESS TO PRES. REED, 1781,

Circular.

Philadelphia, January 9, 1781.

Sir,

You will receive herewith enclosed, Copies of two Acts of Congress of the 5th & 8th Instant.†

By the former you will be informed that from the unwarrantable & cruel Treatment which our People who are Prisoners with the Enemy have of late received, in the opinion of Congress an exercise

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 596. † See page 700.

of the Law of retaliation has become necessary, and it is especially recommended to the Executives of the States respectively, to take effectual Measures for carrying into Execution the Acts of Congress of the 13th of January 1780, respecting Prisoners taken by the Citizens Troops or ships of particular States.

By the other Act (of the 8th Instant) it is earnestly recommended to the several States from New-Hampshire to North Carolina inclusive, to procure for the Use of the Officers in Captivity at New York & on Long Island, to be charged to the United States their respective Quotas therein mentioned in Specie or Bills of Exchange on New York.

It is presumed the Necessities of those Officers, the Distresses they have already suffered, and the more disagreable Situation they must yet be reduced to for want of the Means of Subsistence, unless those Supplies are obtained, will be sufficient to induce a Compliance with this requisition as speedy as possible.

I have the Honor to be
with the highest respect
your Excellency's most obedient
& most humble Servant

SAM. HUNTINGTON.*
President.

Directed,
To His Excellency The President of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Delegates in Congress, 1781.

Gentlemen,

The Prohibition laid on the Loan Officer of this State to receive the new Continental Money or the State Money for Bills of Exchange will we apprehend deeply affect the Credit of the former & in a very little Time depreciate it. We supposed it to be the Wish & Policy of Congress to introduce the new money with every Circumstance of Credit & consider the old as a faithful Servant whose strength was spent & to be laid aside as tenderly as Circumstances will admit, We have therefore directed all our publick measures to get the old money brought in & exchanged, but the refusal of the Officer to receive any but the old Money not only militates strongly against our Publications on this subject but induces the People to set an additional Value on the old money which will be likely in Consequence to appreciate & introduce as destructive a Speculation as that of Depreciation. If therefore these Ideas concur with yours we would request you to bring this Point under the consideration of Con-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 597.

gress. We shall not contend for the Receipt of the State Money, tho we cannot but observe that the creditors of the Continent at the Loan Office are now very clamorous & this State Money would be as convenient as any—but with Respect to the new Continental it appears to us to deserve the most serious Consideration.

We are respectfully Gent.

your Obdt. Hbbl. S.

Indorsed,—Jany 15, 1781.

PRES. REED TO HENRY HAFFA, SHERIFF OF BERKS CO., 1781.

Sir,

We have received a Complaint from the Commissioners of the Taxes of which the inclosed is a Copy & to which we expect your Answer as soon as may be. It will be extremely disagreeable to us to hear of any future Occasions of the Kind as it is our full Intention to support the Commissioners in every legal vigorous Measure for collecting the public Taxes. And we think you cannot render a more essential Service to the State & the County than a punctual Execution of the Orders of the Board against all Delinquents of course you cannot do any Thing more acceptable to us.

I am Sir,

your Obed. Hbble. St.,

J. REED.

Indorsed, Jany 16, 1781.

Directed,

To Henry Haffa, Esqr, Sheriff of Berks.

PRES. REED TO MERCHANTS, &C., OF PHIL., 1781.

The President of the State informs the Merchants & Citizens to whom he applied for some Assistance to perform the Engagements with the discontented Soldiery that finding the Application not only unacceptable but that it has occasioned Dissatisfaction & Charges of assuming undue Powers—thinks it necessary to say that as the Measures have been calculated for their Safety & publick Good & have in no small Degree answered those Purposes, he is sorry to find Uneasiness manifested on the Occasion—as to the other Point he has done nothing which is not consistent with the Laws of Government of the State & is ready to answer for publick Conduct when properly required.—But to remove farther Complaints he now wholly withdraws his Requests of pecuniary Assistance & will endeavour to excuse the Non Performance of his Engagements as well as he can being conscious of having done every thing in his Power to settle this unhappy Affair to the best publick Advantage under all Circumstances.

JOS. REED.

Indorsed.—Jany 18, 1781.

Col. Ephraim Blaine to Pres. of Congress, 1781.

Head Quarters, New Windsor,
19th Jan^y, 1781.

Sir,

I think it my duty to inform Congress of every circumstance which concerns the supplies of our army and my uneasiness respecting them, I fear none of the states will come up to their expectations and that many will fall exceedingly short.—Inclosed I send you a copy of a letter which I received from col. Champion, it will inform you the expectation I have from that state and from many others similar information—those failures of supplies will one day or other be attended with the most fatal consequences, to prevent which I beg Congress to write the most pressing letters to each of the states to use every possible exertion in procuring the provisions required with punctuality. I expect shortly to have returns of all state supplies furnished last year and shall transmit them to Congress the moment I have it in my power.

The troops at West Point and those cantoned in the neighbourhood have been some time upon scant allowance of bread and the present appearances gave me very little hope of a seasonable supply of beef cattle, we have no fresh upon hand and the troops are now fed upon what little corned and salted beef I had laid up for spring use which is not more than twenty days support. If our situation is such in the most plentiful season of the year and when our magazines ought to be filled with salt provisions, I leave your excellency to judge what it must be the next campaign when three times the number of men are in the field, the consequence must undoubtedly be their dissolution for want of subsistence—without the states use fourfold exertions in facilitating their respective purchases in due time. I find a very great loss will arise upon all the cattle which are received with the army—and although I have taken every precaution and adopted every judicious measure to have proper estimates they are all laid much too high—those which I have had slaughtered under the directions of careful people have lost one-fifth upon their estimated weight. The Drovers had it not in their power to make proper provision of forage for the cattle upon the communication which will add some to the loss of beef upon the cattle which have been drove late in the season.

The troops have been destitute of rum ever since they came into winter quarters. There is about 70 Hds. at Springfield but I have not the least hope of getting it brought forward before the spring.

I have the honor to be with great respect
your Excellencys most obd^t hble. serv^t
EPHRAIM BLAINE.

Lewis Farmer to V. P. Moore, 1781.

Continental Ferry, January 19th, 1781.

Sir,

I take the liberty to Inform you that Nine hundred and forty Men are pay'd of an received their Cloathing, shall fall much short, as the line consists of at Least Two Thousand Eight hundred men, be pleased therefore to send me as soon as possible One thousand yds. of Cloth, six Bolts of Oznabrugs, (large) Eight hundred shirts and Eight hundred pr. of shoes, the men get their Discharges very fast, should the Clothing be detained, the Men must likewise, and of course all Business, which may be attended with bad Consequences.

His Excellency the president Stop last Evening at my Quarters, and desired me to inform you of this, I have an Expectation of Receiving some shoes and shirts from Princeton, which General Wayne left there, there are three peices of Green Broad Cloath at my house belonging to a Gentelman in St. Eustatius, they come at 22 6 pr. yd., if you think fit you may have them. Mr. Rieble who tends the store will receive the Goods and pack them, their are Boxes ready made.

I have the honor to be
your most obedient
and very humble servant,

LEWIS FARMER,
Comys^y Clothing.

Directed,

To The Honorable William Moore, Esqr, Vice President, Philadelphia.

Col. Dan. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Fort Pitt, Jan'y 22nd, 1781.

Dear Sir,

I am honored with your favor of the 30th ultimo, and am very thankful for the Contents.

I have the pleasure to inclose a list of Bonds, Notes, &c.,* late the property of a Tory Ross, who was formerly an agent at this place to the King of Britain's Contractors, and deserted from his parole. I am informed that his Estate is worth near ten Thousand pounds in specie, and that it will enure to the benefit of our State.

Mr Willm Wilson, a few days ago, wrote me that he had undertaken to furnish my Troops with one hundred Head of Cattle, upon private contract and with private money. This account, as there was no other prospect of obtaining meat, and the Troops were suffer-

* Not found.

ing for want of it, whilst we were scarcely supplied with Flour, was flattering, & cheered the drooping Spirits of both officers & men. But as meat could not be purchased on account of the great scarcity on this side the mountain, Mr Wilson immediately proceeded to the South Branch of the Powtomack, to perform the Contract. And now I have the mortification to be informed by his Brother, who is just arrived from Old Town, that a prohibitory Law of the State of Virginia will prevent his getting the Cattle he may have purchased for consumption here.

I sincerely wish there was no occasion to trouble you with a further tale of misfortune. But as the United States in general, and our State *in particular*, are immediately interested in retaining in this District, all the Grain that has been raised in it; it might appear criminal in me were I to remain silent respecting certain Instructions lately sent by Governor Jefferson for the purchase of 200,000, Rations on this side the mountains, for the use of the Troops under Colo Clark, for which purpose he has already advanced 300,000 pounds, and promises to furnish, upon the first notice, any further Sum that may be necessary to compleat the payment of that purchase. Because this contract, together with the Consumption of multitudes of emigrants arrived & expected in this District, (chiefly to avoid militia Duty and Taxes) will scarcely leave a pound of Flour for the Regular or other Troops which it may be necessary to employ, either offensively or defensively, against the Enemy, for the Defence of this part of the Frontier Settlements.

It seems the State of Virginia is now preparing to acquire more extensive territory, by sending a great body of men under Colo (whom they intend to raise to the rank of Brigadier) Clark, to attempt the reduction of Detroit. I have hitherto been encouraged to flatter myself, that I should, sooner or later, be enabled to reduce that place; But it seems the United States cannot furnish either Troops or resources for the purpose, but the State of Virginia can.

A Grand Council of British and other Savages is now holding at Detroit, and I am informed they are premeditating a descent on this post; and as I cannot rely on a private Contract, which may or may not be made, as shall best suit the Contractors, and it is at most insufficient; This and the other circumstances I have mentioned, have induced me to send Mr Duncan, (Colo Blaine's Deputy) to apply for money to purchase & lay in provisions for the Troops that are or may be under my Command, if possible, before Spring, so that, if I should be unfortunate enough not to be sufficiently reinforced to enable me to pursue some hostile measures against the Enemy, I may not be under the disagreeable necessity of shamefully abandoning posts of the first consequence committed to my care, and suffering the already much distressed Inhabitants to be slaughtered by the merciless Savages & their abettors.

The Soldiers are almost naked, and will not have a rag to cover their nakedness by the first of March. I conceive it will be very

difficult for me to quiet them much longer. It is true they have had a pretty competent share of clothing; But as the several Staff Departments here have been and still are destitute of money to hire a single Artificer, Labourer, or Fatigueman in the County, and consequently Soldiers have been constantly employed by them, they necessarily wear out their Clothing in half the time they would in common Service. As to my own Reg^t, not a single Hunting Shirt or a blanket worth a shilling has been furnished it since I left Lancaster.

As Mr Duncan will probably have to make his purchases of Cattle in Virginia, I hope the Hon'ble Congress will prevent the compulsory Law I have mentioned from taking them out of his Hands.

Could a quantity of Indian Goods & trinkets be procured, and sent under the denomination of & with the Soldiers' Clothing early in the Spring, there would be little Danger of their safe arrival. And they would answer a most valuable purpose, without any considerable expence to the States, as the profits of those which might be bartered for furr & peltry would nearly defray the Expence of presents or rewards made to such Indians as might be retained in service, and without these, it can scarcely be expected that any of them will remain in our Interest.

The whole of my Force is reduced to about 300 Rank & file, many of which are unfit for the Service, And it is probable that the 9th Virg^a Reg^t and Captn Heth's Company, altho' chiefly composed of Pensilvanians will be ordered to join the Virg^a Line, and that the Maryland Corps will likewise be ordered to join that line. Then none but my Reg^t, reduced to about 100 rank & file, & Captn Creig's artillery about 20 men, will be left to Garrison these posts. Under these circumstances, should no reinforcement arrive early in the Spring, nor provisions be made for the Troops, and these Garrisons fall into the Hands of the Enemy, after all the just & faithful representations I have made to my Superiors of the want of Force and provisions, to enable me to punish the Enemy and render my Country that Service which was expected; I trust I shall stand acquitted of every imputation of the want of Vigilance, of inattention & neglect, before God & man.

I have never been furnished with goods of any kind, nor a penny of money to enable me to transact Business with the Indians; neither has any person been appointed to take the trouble of them off my Hands. And yet, if I can serve my Country, I shall be happy; but it is necessary I should be supported, and a little hard money to give rewards to partizans will be highly expedient.

The Indian Captains appointed by the British Commandant at Detroit, are clothed in the most elegant manner, and have many valuable presents made them. The Captains I have Commissioned by authority of Congress are naked, and receive nothing but a little Whiskey, for which they are reviled by the Indians in general; So that, unless a change of System is introduced, I must expect to see all Indians in favor of Britain, in spite of every address in my power.

I fear I have trespassed upon your patience, but you'll please to excuse me. I have never kept a thing Secret from you which you ought to know, or were interested in. Your patriotism & Candour, as well as your Station, command my most perfect respect & warmest wishes, whilst I have the Honor to be, with the utmost sincerity, Dear Sir, your most obedt Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Postscript.

If I can obtain leave from his Excell'cy the commander in chief for a few weeks' absence, I promise myself the Honor of waiting upon you early in next March. I do not mean by this proposed leave to serve myself but the public, by making my ideas of military operations in this Country better understood by Conversation, than I am able to do by writing.

I have wrote to Govr Jefferson respecting his Instructions to his Comm'y, and assured him that I should not consider myself at liberty to suffer the transportation of Provisions out of this District, untill I received instructions from the proper authority.

If Goods or Specie could be furnished to pay the Moravian Indians for Cattle & Swine, a very considerable quantity could be procured from thence, at a reasonable rate, which will otherwise be drove to the Enemy at Detroit. The Bearer, too, is a proper person to be entrusted.

Pres. Reed to Representatives, 1781.

Philada. Jany. 23, 1781.

Gent.

The unhappy discontent which has appeared in the Pennsylvania line and the critical situation of public affairs render it of great importance, that the General Assembly should be punctual in their meeting according to adjournment. The members of your county are therefore earnestly requested to attend accordingly.

I am with great respect,

Your most obedt Servant,

J. REED, Prest.

To Isaac Meason, Samuel Sloan & David Semple Esq. Representatives of the county of Westmoreland.

Note. A similar letter to John Burd Esqr. to be communicated to his colleague J. Powell, Esq.

Col. Thomas Proctor to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Philada. January 23d, 1781.

Gentlemen,

As many non-commissioned Officers and Matross's belonging to the Artillery of this Commonwealth, have unjustly availd themselves through a Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor; devised to quell the insurrection among the Troops of the Pennsylvania Line—Have taken an Oath they were entered but for three years, or during the War; and are thereby discharged the service.

By the tenor of the aforesaid Proclamation a Field officer from each Regiment was directed to attend a committee of your Honourable House at Trenton with the Enlistments of the Soldiers in order that justice might be done to the complainants, My Men knowing the Tenor of their enlistments being for the war forcibly prevented my producing them. And whereas the major part of the Regiment is now present in the city, consisting mostly of these men who are too honourable to declare off; gives me an opportunity of doing essential service to the State, by producing their enlistments which cannot admit of an equivocation.

My wish is therefore in order to put it out of the power of these Men for future complaints, and to show with what justice their services, are demanded; that two Gentlemen be appointed by you as judges while the matter is investigated between those Men and the State. To delay this matter much longer will be attended with bad consequences, as many men of my Regiment as well as of others have entered themselves on Board of Vessels in this Harbour and is hourly expected to sail if not prevented by an order from your Honorable House. I wait your further orders and directions, and am Honoured Sirs with due regard,

Your most obedient,
Humble Servt.

THO. PROCTOR,
Col P. Artilerey.

Directed,

The Honourable the Supreme Executive Council of the common wealth of Pennsylvania.

Gen. James Potter to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Trents, Januy. 24th, 1781.

Sir,

We have settled with eight of the Regt. Including Precters Artilerey—when they are Sober they are much Better natured than they were—we have had a Rangale once a day untill yesterday,—

we Retained more men yesterday out of the Seventh and much better Tempered than thay formerly were.

General Wayne Informed us last evining that Major Burris had seen two Sarjants of the Jarsey line who enformed him that about 400 men of that line had marched off from Princeton to Morristown and Secured our two pieces of Cannon that were left and taken off to Chatham and were following the worthey Example of the pensylvania line.

I hope in about eight days we shall have the plesure of secing you in the City.

I am your Excellency,

Humble Servant,

JAS. POTTER.

P. S. I do not Beleve the Report of the Jarsey line.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed Esqr. Philadelphia.

Pres. Reed to Delegates in Congress, 1781.

Gentlemen,

The Non Payment of the Interest due to Persons who have put their Money into the Loan Office of this State occasions just & general Uneasiness, & unless some Redress is given must soon be productive of very disagreeable Consequences. There is at present a vigorous Collection of publick Taxes in this State, & many who have accommodated the publick with their Money at the Request of Congress, have had their Goods seized & distrained while the Interest of their Certificates is unpaid.—We should be glad to confer with you on this important Subject to morrow at 11 °Clock, & am

Gentlemen with Respect & Regard,

your Obed. Hbbl. Serv.,

J. R.

Indorsed,

January 24th, 1781.

Secretary Matlack to David Deshler, 1781.

Philadelphia, Jany 24, 1781.

Sir,

Your letter to Col^l Morgan, mentioning the application of Col^l Butler to you for provisions for the Garrison under his Command at Wyoming, has been laid before the Council. Orders on the subject have been given to Col^l Morgan, which, no doubt, he has trans-

mitted to you. I am ordered by the President & Council to desire that you will send to the President the Original letter written to you by Col^l Butler.

I must request you will not delay to do this a moment beyond the first safe opportunity, as that letter is now wanted here. It will be proper for you to keep an exact copy of it in your hands lest the original should miscarry.

I am with great respect,

your most ob^t servant,

T. M.
Sec'y.*

Directed,

To David Deshler, Commissioner of purchases for the county of Northampton.

JOSEPH DEAN TO V. P. MOORE, 1781.

Continental Ferry, Jan'y 24th, 1781.

Sir,

I ariv'd here this morning after a very disagreeable ride, thro' exceeding bad Roads. Col. Farmer will want at least 1000 yds. 5 or 4/4 Cloth, 6 large bolts Oznaburgs, 800 Shirts, 800 pair Shoes, 150 doz. small Buttons, 100 doz. large ditto, & 6^d thread, if these Articles are not on the Road now, we shall be entirely out of all Cloathing to morrow, and I'm afraid the Soldiers will begin to be very troublesome, you will therefore please to Consider our Critical situation at this place. Its with great concern I have to inform you of the revolt of the Jersey Line, they are posted near Chatham with two pieces Artilery in a very advantageous Situation to defend themselves, the Bearer can inform you more of this than I can possibly write you.

I am Sir,

your very humb. Serv.,

JOS. DEAN.

Directed,

Honble William Moore, Esqr, Vice President State Pennsy^a, Philad^a.

* See page 702, & Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 596.

Thomas Scott to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Westmoreland, January 24th, 1781.

Dear Sir,

I have often done myself the pleasur of writing to you since I left Philadelphia, and have given you account of the several different appearances which the affairs of this Country have from time to time made since that date; but know not if any were so fortunate as to reach your hand.

I have been big with expectation of the line between us and virginia being shortly run, and that dispute finally settled; but begin to think I shall be disappointed. A member of the Virginia assembly, who lately arrived here from Richmond, assures me that that Government knows nothing of our agreement with their conditions, but what they get from the public Newspapers: and moreover shewed me a resolve of Congress of the 10th of last october, which appears to Intimate what congress designs to do with the Land that may be ceded to the united states, pursuant to a recommendation of the 6th of September. From which, and for as much as they had no official intiligence of pennsylvanias agreement with them, he argues that it is not to be expected, and further that if it should be offered it must not be suffered, because if the unappropriated parts of the country are relinquished to Congress, we must go with it, or Elce we shall remain a people dependant on pennsylvania, Remote in situation, different in Interests, few in number, and forever prevented of future groath, and conciquently Governed by Laws (as good as wholly) made by those whose Interest is totally different from ours.

This sir is said to be Nervous reasoning, and has not failed of making its impression on the minds of many, in so much that I think the states of Penn^a, Maryland, and Virginia, and Congress too, will shortly see Memorials on the subject. For my own part I want Information, and for that end beg your Excellencies answer to the following queries, with such other Information as you may pleas to favour me with. 1st, dos Congress Expect any land off Pennsylvania? 2d, do they mean by the promised reimbursements to pay a just proportion of the sum due the proprietary family as well as other expence? 3d, will the state come into the measur? 4th, will penn^a let all the settlements on the Western waters go with or be part of what they will relinquish? If the two first are in the affirmative, and the whole plan calculated, as it appears to be, to bring the states into a firmer bond of union than they at present are, I can Intertain but Littell doubt of the third. And if the fourth is in the affirmative also, I believe it will meet but very few objections on this side the mountains; but should the unsetled part of pennsylvanias claim Be relinquished, and the settelments Retained, the

people would Certainly think themselves Intolerably agrieved. Give up all and let us take our chance, or keep all and let us grow to be a considerable part of you, is the cry of many. Others say let us by mere dint of opesition force these states to relinquish us to congress (on the present recommendation) whose procrastinated quarrel about our country hath hung us, our wives, Children and Living up an easy pray to the savages these so many years, the settlement whereof hath in so many instances been totally neglected, and at best considered as a mere by busness, which will at one stroke reconcile all our Teritorial differences, and Inable us to exert our united strength against our common enemy. A third class seem to wait the success of a memorial which was drawn up at this January Term and signed by a few of those present at court, respecting the price of our land, and will be carryed down by Mr. Meason, one of our representatives, and should that Memorial be unsuccessfull, I do not think there is many, perhaps not ten men on this side the mountains, that would not lift arms against the state. This is the present situation of this country, all in confusion and destraction, helpless for want of Government, and exposed to the dayly Inrodes of the savage tribes.

Altho the jurisdiction of Virginia still retains sufficient strength to distress an Individual, on behalf of a favourate, yet it is so far shaken that it is totally unable to command the services of its subjects in the defence of the country, and the jurisdiction of Penn^a is not yet extended amongst them, nor can it be as matters now stand. The subjects of Pennsylvania Revolt at the Idea of being subjected to double and Threefold duty, whilst their next neighbour, on the right hand and on the left, are not compellable to do any thing, and a few weeks will bring that season of the year when we may expect the Indians amongst us. Our condition is realy deplorable, for Gods sake, dear sir Interest yourself in having some thing done that may put an end to the present destractions of this country.

No doubt council have some good reason for not communicating the late agreement with Virgi^a proposals to that Government before now (if it is true that they have not) if it is that all is to be relinquished to the Continent, as is pertended, and by which ocation of new confusion has been found, I wish to god it was done, If any thing Else I wish how soon it could be removed and the country assured of what they are to expect. And in the mene time I Judge it rather Imprudent for me (after all thats passed) to Intermeddle much in the politics of this country; but wishes sincerely that the state may Eather hold all its claims on the Western waters, or give all up, that this country which appears so naturally connected, may not suffer any political division that can be avoided.

Two or three other questions of high consequence to this county occurs to me, which I beg your answer to. first is Whether one, two or more justices inquiring of a forcible entry and detainer by a jury of twenty four, under the statutes be a Legal proceeding in

Pennsylvania, and if it is whether the Inquisition so found may be set aside by motion in the sessions, and writ of restitution awarded, and whether any apeal Lies to the sessions in such case, if not, what is the proper mode for the party agrieved by such motion and writ thereon awarded, to Obtain redress. Lastly whether possessions of Land gained by judgments on default in the Virginia courts, (evin altho the party against whom the judg^t is, may for some time have acknowledged himself a subject of their usurpation, rather than run the risque of refusing it) are to be held by such Judgment, till the title is tryed, or may they be conceded and proceeded in as forceable entrys.

These questions exactly state the case of the bearer hereof, Mr. Joseph Jones, who is a great sufferer at present by that artch apostite Dorsey penticost, who hath been the very person, who invegled and fritned hundreds into subjection to that usurpation, and this m^r Jones amongst the rest, for a while, altho he had come to dare to deny their Jurisdiction before the Judgment was had against him, and yet this same penticost, the second, and next to Conely, in all the mischiefs that hath befalen this country, has adress enough, and influance enough, on some of our weak headed Magastrates to make them believe that all those who ever acknowledged the jurisdiction of Virginia are bound by the determination, altho they may have denyed it before the matter was determined, and that the late agreement between the two states secures all this &c. and his money, and smiles, procures some of our little pettyfoging Lawyers to preach the same doctrin, &c., &c., on all which and for the sake of justice I beg you will set the said Mr. Jones, and Mr. Hoofnagle, who will be with him, on the right tract in this case, and favour me with your Explicite answer to these queries, for the futer benefit of this county. I have the honour to be with the greatest respect, your Excellencies most obedient and very humb. servant,

THOMAS SCOTT.

Pres. Reed to Samuel Lyon, 1781.

Sir,

The Rendezvous of the 4th Regiment of Infantry of this State is appointed at Carlisle & as Meat will be necessary as well as Flour for their Support you will extend your Purchases to that Article—We know not what to say as to Money the Treasury being kept in so exhausted a State all the Counties being deficient & I am sorry to say Cumberland County in a particular Manner. Pray exert yourself with the Gentlemen of the County to collect the Taxes & then we shall be able to do something satisfactory in the Way of Payment to those who furnish Supplies. The late Mutiny in the

Pennsylvania Line may be much ascribed to the Deficiency of Taxes by which the troops have been unpaid, unfed & uncloath'd.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble Serv.,

JOS. REED,

President.

Indorsed,

January 26th, 1781. To Samuel Lyon Commr of Purchases in Cumberland County.

Pres. Reed to Capn. Mitchell, 1781.

Sir,

It is with great Satisfaction we have heard that agreeable to a Resolution of Congress Genl Washington has appointed you to the Command of the Garrison at Wyoming. As a disputed Territory between two States we have no doubt you will observe an impartial & disinterested Attention to your Trust & rectify the Abuses which have long prevailed at that Place while under an interested Commander. These were principally encouraging Settlers of all Characters & Denominations to occupy the disputed Lands contrary to the Letter & Spirit of the enclosed Resolution of Congress—And secondly distributing Supplies ostensibly for the Garrison to such Settlers under the Denomination of Officers & Soldiers. You & your People will doubtless be tempted by Offers of Land & other Artifices to engage you in their Interests & favour their Views which are to strengthen themselves in Number and Possession so as when Occasion serves to substitute Force instead of Right—Hence our Overtures to submit the Dispute to the Decision of Congress agreeable to the Articles of Confederation which both States have acceded to, have been declined without assigning even a plausible Reason. They have hitherto had sufficient Address to support those Interested at the Expence of the United States but the Eyes of the Representatives are at length opened & led to this Change of Command in which we have great Confidence that you will not only keep yourself disengaged from any interested Connections with those People but as far as possible preserve your Men from becoming Parties in a Dispute which can never be brought to a fair & just Discussion without destroying the absurd and disingenuous Claims of Connecticut. Sensible of the Abuses practised at the Post we refused to permit Supplies to pass untill they were rectified but as we are now fully satisfied with the Arrangement made I enclose you a Letter to Col. Hunter Lieutenant of Northumberland & to our Commissioner there directing them to forward all necessary Supplies to that Post as heretofore. You will send us down Returns of your Strength from Time to Time that suitable & sufficient Supplies may be procured. And we hope you

will exert yourself with respect to the enclosed Resolution of Congress which has hitherto been little regarded, by making due Inquiry of all new Settlers & using your Authority when they come contrary to this Resolution.

We shall be glad to hear from you occasionally & wishing you an agreeable & honourable Command,

I remain Sir,

Your Obed. Hble Ser.

Indorsed,

January 26th, 1781. To Captain Mitchell Commds at Wyoming.

Pres. Reed to Col. Sam. Hunter, 1781.

Sir,

The Hon. Continental Congress having lately on our Representations passed a Resolve directing Gen. Washington to garrison the Post at Wyoming with Troops of a State indifferent to the Dispute subsisting between this State & Connecticut & his Excelly having agreeable thereto ordered a Detachment of the Jersey Line under Capt. Mitchell to occupy that Post we now think it our Duty to revoke the order formerly given you to stay the passing Provisions & Supplies from this State and request yon to give Capt. Mitchel who is a Gentleman of fair Character & a good Officer all the Assistance & Civility in your Power. As we are informed that there are Quantities of Provisions in that Country, we request you to consult Capt. Mitchel on the Appointment of some Person to act as Purchaser at Wyoming and its Vicinity on Behalf of the State. As he is to act under the State it is needless to add that he must be a Person well affected to its interests as well as Trustworthy in other Respects.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble Serv.

Directed,

To Col. Hunter, Lieut. of Northumberland.

Indorsed,

Jan'y 26th, 1781. To Colonel Samuel Hunter, Lt of Northumd County.

Lieut. Joseph Hart to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Jan'y ye 26th, 1781.

Sir,

This Day two Weeks I wrote to Council to know who, how or when the Volunteers or seven months' men, were to get their pay; but your Excellency being then out of Town, the letter was brought back unopened: and Just now there is two come who say that they

came from You; and that you told them you had sent Orders to me to pay them. These orders (if any such) are not yet come to hand; and I must send the poor Fellows away, as I have done many others, without their Money, or without being able to tell them when or by whome they are to be paid, and this, I find, Creates a General uneasiness, which must be pernicious to the recruiting Service. If I am to pay the Men, I wish I had a few days sooner, as I have Just stated my Acc^t with the State, and paid the Ballance to the Treasurer.

I am sorry to hear of the Breach in our Army, and am afraid it will give Spirit and Vigoure to the Enemy. This is s^d to be occationed by bad pay and other bad usage. Should be glad to hear the Particulars of this Mischievous Business, and whether or no the Storm last Monday night hath done any Considerable damage to the Vessels at the Wharfes, or on the Rivers, as I think it must have done some. It hath occationed great destruction to the Timber and Fences in this Country, and one House I saw unroofed, but no lives lost. I am, Sir, with all Possible respect,

Your Excellencies & the Council's
Most Obd^t Humble Servt,
JOSEPH HART, Lieut. B. C.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esq., and the Members of the Supreme Executive Council of the State of Pensylvania.

Col. Saml. Miles to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Philad^a, Jan'y 27th, 1781.

Sir,

I have been applyed to by the Quarter Master of the second Reg^t of the Pennsy^a Line for Billets for a Number of Non Commissioned Officers & soldiers; but as the Order of the Honble Council is confin'd to the Officers, I can't look upon myself warrented in billeting private soldiers upon the Inhabitants without a special Order for that purpose. I expected to Quarter them in the Barracks, but there's no part unoccupied fit to receive them.

Indeed, I hope the Honorable Council will be kind enough to put this duty upon the Magistrates if any soldiers are to be billeted on the Inhabitants, as the Magistrates in their respective wards are certainly better Judges than I can possibly be of the Situation of the families in their Neighbourhood.

I am your Excellencies most
Obed^t & most Humble Servant,
SAM^l MILES, D. Q. M. G.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, Presid^t of Pennsylvania.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Philadelphia, January 27, 1781.

Sir,

Enclosed is a Copy of a Letter from Col. Blaine,* Commissary General, which I am directed to transmit to the several States from Pennsylvania to the Eastward.

By this you will be informed of the critical Situation of the Army respecting Provisions and other Supplies.

Congress have no other means on which to place their Dependence at present, but a Compliance on the Part of the States in furnishing their respective Quotas agreeable to former requisitions for that Purpose.

It is therefore most earnestly requested, that they use every possible Exertion in procuring the Provisions & Supplies requested of them respectively.

I have the Honor to be,
with every Sentiment of Esteem & respect,
your Excellency's most obedient
& most humble Servant,
SAM. HUNTINGTON.
President.

His Excellency President Reed.

Sec'y Matlack to Col. Saml. Miles, 1781.

Philadelphia, Jan'y 29th, 1781.

Sir,

His Excellency the President has laid before the Council your letter of the 27th inst.† The Council direct me to inform you that, consistent with their Orders, there will not be in the city, at any time, more than 150 men; and this number they think there cannot be a difficulty in quartering in public buildings, without interfering with private families; but if a number should happen to be in the City greater than can be provided for in that way, you will please to apply to the Justices of the Peace for authority to quarter them.

I have enclosed to you the Arrangement of the Pennsylvania line, with the recruiting instructions, by which you will see the places to which they are ordered, and you will proceed to give directions for providing quarters for the Officers & soldiers accordingly, as above mentioned.

I am, respectfully, Your very humble Servant,
T. M., Sec'y.

To Col. S. Miles, D. Q. M. G.

* See page 705.
† See page 718.

Hilary Baker, Jr., to Secretary Matlack, 1781.

Sir,

I am at a loss to know how the Act for the gradual Abolition of Slavery* is to be construed with respect to Slaves or Servants under the Age of 28 years, and omitted to be entered. Whether they are to be considered as immediately Free, or as Servants, untill they attain the Age of 28 years. I shall esteem it a Favour if you will be pleased to inform me what Construction the Hon'ble Council and yourself put on the Law in this Point, that I may know how to make out Certificates properly in such cases.

The Bearer has two Children thus circumstanced, i. e., under the Age of 28 years and not entred. He is desirous to have Certificates, wherein I think the Benefit derived to the Persons by the Law should be clearly and precisely expressed—therefore, I would wish to guard against Improprieties.

I am, very respectfully, Sir,
Your most obed. humble Servant,
HILARY BAKER, Jun.

Jan'y 29th, 1781.

Directed,
Hon'ble Timothy Matlack, Esq., Present.

Pres. Reed to Commissioners of Purchases, 1781.

Sir,

It is become necessary in order to recruit the Line of this State now most unhappily deranged, to appoint places of Rendezvous in the several Counties, which we have done, agreeable to the inclosed Plan.† You will therefore exert yourself with all Expedition to provide Beef, Bread & Rum or Whiskey & Forage, at the *Yellow Springs* for the Accommodation of one Regiment, we do not expect that more than 100 Men will be there at one Time, but there will allways be sundry officers, who are to be quartered in the neighboring Houses by two Magistrates, so as to be most convenient to the Officers & least burthensome to the Inhabitants. We recommend it to you & the neighboring Gentlemen to treat them with the Civility & Kindness due to their Rank & Character, & have no doubt but, on their Part, they will treat the Inhabitants with Respect & Regard. You are to deliver your Purchases to the issuing Continental Commissary, & we again require regular monthly Returns of your Proceedings, which cannot be dispensed with on any Account.

I am, &c.

Indorsed, Jan'y 30, '81.

* Passed Mar. 1, 1780. See Reg. Pennsylvania, Vol. IX., p. 270–272. Vol. X., p. 327, and Vol. XI., p. 158.

† Not found.

DAVID DESHLER TO SEC. MATLACK, 1781.

Allentown, Jan'y 31st, 1781.

Sir,

Received your Letter of the 24th Instant, and has obeyed the orders of the President & Council by Inclosing Colo. Butler's Letter and instructions, which I hope will come safe to hand. Capt. Mitchell, who commands the Jersey Troops that is gone to Wyoming to relieve the Garrison, has applyed to me for supplies. I can do nothing till my Instructions come from the Honorable President & Council, whose pleasure I shall wait upon. I gave them a little supply to take with them to the Garrison.

I am, Hon^d Sir, Your h'ble Servt.,

DAVID DESHLER.

Directed,

Public service.

Honble Timothy Matlack, Esq., Sec'y, Philadelphia.
Favoured by Colo. Brom.

Indorsed,

Read Feb'y 7, 1781. (There is no minute of this date.)

PRES. REED TO MAJ. GEN. ST. CLAIR, 1781.

Council Chamber, Feb. 1, 1781.

Sir,

Your Communications this Morning in Behalf of the Captains & Subalterns of the Pennsylvania Line specifying "a Demand of a "farther Advance of Money, & in Case of Non-compliance that a "Resignation would take Place" was of so extraordinary & interesting a Nature that we thought it our Duty to communicate it to the Hon. the Congress of the United States who will probably signify their Sense thereupon either immediately to you or through us. For our own Parts having in the Advance already gone beyond the Act of Ass^y which only requires Certificates to be given for Depreciation & not being authorized to furnish the Arrearages of Pay or in a Capacity to make any farther Advances we can only lament that our past Exertions have not been more satisfactory & must under every Event endeavour to conduct the public Business to as happy an Issue as Circumstances will admit

I am Sir, with much Esteem

Your Obed. Hble Ser.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 613.

Pres. Reed to Delegates in Congress, 1781.

Gentlemen,

The Situation of Affairs with Respect to the Officers of the Pennsylv. Line requiring our giving some Answer from this Board to the Requisition made yesterday by Gen. St. Clair we have just sent the inclosed which we think it incumbent on us to communicate to the Hon^e Body of which you are Members.

I am with due Respect & Regard

Genl your obed. & very Hbble Ser.

J. R.

Indorsed,
Feb. 2, 1781.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1781.

Gentlemen,

In fixing the Places of regimental Rendezvous for the Pennsylv. Line we have endeavoured to consult the good of the Service, the Convenience of Officers & Circumstances of the Inhabitants & the Soldiers are now so well acquainted with them that any Alteration will be attended with bad Consequences we therefore hope your Hon. Board will give Directions conformably. Col. Miles's Letter inclosed will state to you the principal Difficulty on this Subject.*

I am Gent. with much Esteem

Your obed. Hbble Ser,

J. REED.

Indorsed,
Feb'y 2, 1781.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Philadelphia, February 2, 1781.

Sir

By the inclosed Resolve of the 1st Instant your Excellency will be informed that the Resolution of Congress of the 4th of September, 1778 allowing Officers three Dollars a Day for Expences on Business not incidental to their Office is repealed and to have no Effect from and after the first Day of March next.

I am desired by Mr Secretary Thomson to request your Excellency would be so obliging as to forward by the first convenient

* See pages 718, 719.

Opportunity the enclosed Letter addressed to Mr Mathew Cowper. With the highest Respect

I have the Honor to be
your Excellency's most obedient
& most humble Servant,
SAM. HUNTINGTON, President.

Directed,
His Excellency General Washington.

Sec'y Matlack to Maj. Gen. St. Clair, 1781.

Philadelphia, Feb'y 3rd, 1781.

Sir,

I am ordered by His Excellency the President & Council, to enclose to you the Resolve of Congress of the 2nd instant, which has been transmitted to them in consequence of an application to Congress founded on your representation in behalf of the officers of the Pennsylvania line, on the first instant.

I am with great respect
your most obedient servant
T. M. Secy.

Directed,
Major Genl St Clair.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Sir,

The board of war having represented to Congress that there are more than 400 prisoners in goal in this city who have on several occasions manifested a mutinous disposition; and that there are at this time several circumstances which would favour any attempts which they might make to escape, Congress have passed a resolution of which I enclose a certified copy. Your Excellency & the honble Council will see the necessity of taking immediate measures for carrying it into execution to prevent the evil consequences that may ensue.

I have the honor to be
your excellency's
obed. humble Servt,
SAM. HUNTINGTON, Presd.*

Directed,
His Ex'y President Reed.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 615.

Resolution of Congress, 1781.

In Congress, Feb'y 3, 1781.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the supreme executive of the state of Pensylvania to call out to do duty in the City of Philadelphia for thirty days if not sooner discharged, one hundred of the rank and file of the militia properly officered.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.

Col. L. Nicola to Pres. Reed, 1781.

S^r,

I rec^d yesterday afternoon, two Letters from Col. Matlack, one informing me that your Excellency & Council desired Copies* of my letters to the commanding officers of the Pensylvania line, & of the orders I gave Captain McElhatton & Lts. Bigham & Wigton, when I gave them money to carry to Camp. I herewith send you copies of all the letters I wrote & received relative to recruiting, these would have been sooner sent, agreeable to your former directions, but that neither my clerk or me could afford time to transcribe them, & the person I first employed did it so incorrectly I was obliged to employ another to recopy them.

When I committed recruits & money to Lt. Bigham & Cap. McElhatton, I only gave them verbal instructions to deliver both to Genl St. Clair, or officer commanding the Pensylvania line, taking their receipts for the money specifying the purpose for which it was given to them, these are in the hands of the State Auditors of Accounts. Lt. Wigton had no charge but of money, for which he gave me a receipt, on his return to this city he desired I would return him his receipt & he would give me Genl Wayns, I thought this reasonable & complied. The Gen^s receipt is

Rec^d Decr 22^d, 1780, of Col. Lewis Nicola by the hands of Lt. Wigton ten thousand dollars for the purpose of paying the last Bounty to certain recruits.

ANT^y WAYNE.

10,000 Dol^s Underneath.

N. B. The above money was delivered to Genl. Wayne, Decr 5th, but not receited for till the 22^d.

J. WIGTON.

Col. Matlack second letter related to applications made to Council for bounty for recruits enlisted in camp.

Several officers & men have applied to me for bounties due, in whole or in part, to 7 months men re-enlisted in camp by Gen. Potter & other officers, my constant answer has been, that I was unac-

* See pp. 669—682.

quainted with these transactions, had no orders to pay the bounty to these men & could not dispose of the publick money without being duly authorized.

Permit me to assure your Excellency that I am with respect,

Sr Your most obed. Servant,

LEWIS NICOLA, Col. Inv.

Barracks, 4th
Februy, 1781.

Directed,

To His Excellency Joseph Reed, President of the State.

Indorsed,

Mr Joseph Vandyke is recommended to be Keeper of the State Goal in Place of Mr Jewel deceased.

Sec'y Matlack to Wm. Bradford, Jr., 1781.

Philada, Feb'y 5, 1781.

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency the President & the Council to desire, that you will immediately issue a writ in the name of the Commonwealth against Lieutenant John Bigham of the fifth Pennsylvania regiment and mark the same eight thousand Dollars.

I am with great respect

Your most obedient Servant,

T. M., Sec'y.

Directed,

Wm. Bradford, Jr., Esq., Att'y General.

Sec'y Matlack to Managers of House of Employment, 1781.

Gentlemen:

An Application has been made by the Board of War for a part of the house of employment to accomodate sick prisoners now in the new Goal. The Council direct me to request you will, if practicable appropriate a part of the house of Employment accordingly—And that you will please to give them an immediate answer as the Case is urgent and as it is highly important to the Citizens to prevent the danger of infectious diseases being spread thro the city.

Feb'y 7, 1781.

Directed,

Managers of the House of Employment.

Pres. Reed to Managers of the House of Employment, 1781.

Gentlemen:

The Board of War have represented to the Council some Difficulties arising in the Appropriation of a Part of the House of Employment to the use of the sick Prisoners. The Rent required has been mentioned to Congress & is deemed much too great. As the publick Necessities admit of no delay & official Application has been made to us, we would recommend that you should nominate one man to meet a Person appointed by the Board of War to affix a rent, & if they cannot agree to chuse a third & we have no Doubt you will acquiesce in a Proposition which appears so reasonable—The Rent to be fixed monthly. For the Sake of saving Time we request you will communicate your Determination to the Board of War & in the present Emergency would also wish for the Sake of Humanity to the Prisoners as well as Safety to the City that you would facilitate the Business as much as possible.

I am Gen.,

Your Obed. Hble. Servt,

JOS. REED.

Indorsed,

Febr 10, 1781.

General Knox to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Head Quarters, New Windsor,
13 Febr, 1781.

Sir,

This will be delivered to your Excellency by Thomas Inglish, one of a company of artillery artificers raised in Pennsylvania, and which has been attached to the Park of Artillery from the begining of 1777, to the present time. They were originally inlisted to serve *three years or during the war.* The original inlistments are in my possession. At the expiration of three years the same construction was put upon their engagements as upon those of the line in the same predicament. But the affairs of the line having altered the construction, the artificers presume they have the same right to be discharged as the soldiers. His Excellency the Commander in Chief thinks it proper to refer them to your Excellency for decision.

It is but bare justice to say that this small corps of men, consisting now of only about twenty, have done essential service to their country—are perfect masters of their business—industrious, and well behaved, not one of their present number having ever been punished or even confined. From having always been in the field they have,

in common with the other troops, labored under the same hardships of a want of pay, clothing and provisions, and now, they say, they only claim the same justice as to their discharges.

As they have always been returned as belonging to the state of Pennsylvania it is supposed that the state is to make good the depreciation of their pay. This is a matter I hope your Excellency will put on its proper footing, as the poor fellows deserve highly of their country. If the State of Pennsylvania should not make good their pay, the matter I presume rests with the Board of War, on behalf of the continent.

I request the favor of an answer by the return of the bearer.

I am Sir,

with respect your Excellency's

most obedt servt,

J. KNOX.

Directed,

On publick Service.

To his Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the State of Pennsylvania Philadelphia.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1781.

War Office, Febr 14th, 1781.

Sir,

We had the Honour some time ago to apply to Council for the Liberty of using that Part of the western Wing of the State House formerly occupied as a Library, for the War Office. We were told them that it was pre-engaged, & have been endeavouring to get a suitable Place for the Office but have not succeeded. The Proprietor of the House we are now in, is so importunate for it that we must deliver it up immediately, as we do not chuse to hold his Property against his Will, & be subjected to disagreeable Consequences. We are informed that the Wing of the State House* is appropriated for the use of Mr. Secretary Matlack. We shall be extremely obliged to the Hon'ble Council as well as to those Gentlemen for the Permission to remove our Papers into the apartment above mentioned & we will deliver it up when wanted or pay for an office for the Secretary in some other Place as shall be agreed on. We shall be much obliged by a speedy Answer.

We have the Honour to be

with great Respect & Esteem

your very obedt Servants,

RICHARD PETERS,

By Order.

Directed,

On Public Service,

To His Excellency President Reed, in Council.

(War Office.)

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 627.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1781.

In Council,
Philad^a, Feby 14, 1781.

Gentlemen,

We apprehend the state of the City will now admit of the Return of the arms sent down to Mud Island, and as we are about discharging our Gally Officers have thought it proper to acquaint you with this circumstance. Captain Boys will assist Mr. Hoddesden in the Business.

I am Gentlemen
respectfully your obedient
humble servant,
J. REED,
President.*

Directed,
To Hon'ble Board of War.

Pres. Reed to Capt. Boys, 1781.

Sir,

As circumstances will admit the Return of the Arms sent down to Mud Island should Mr Hoddeson apply to you on that business you will please to give the necessary assistance. If either of the Lieutenants are necessary to assist, you will retain him and Council will satisfy him for his trouble.

I am sir your obedient
and very humble servant,
J. R. President.

Council Chamber, Feby 14, 1781.
Directed,
To Captain Boys.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1781.

State of Pennsylvania In General assembly, Thursday, Feb. 15th, 1781.

Resolved, That Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Patten, Mr. J. Burd, Mr. Morgan, and Mr. Lourey, be a committee to confer with the President and Council on the present State of the Frontiers, and prepare and report to the House a proper plan for defending the same.

Extract from the minutes,
SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.†

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 627.
† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 631.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1781.

State of Pennsylvania In General Assembly
Thursday, 15th Feb. 1781.

Resolved, That Mr. R. Morris, Mr. J. Smith, Mr. C. Mifflin, Mr. J. Harris, and Mr. Montgomery, be a Committee to confer with the President and Council, and the General officers of the Pennsylvania Line, now in Town, on the subject of recruiting the said Line, to request the Supreme Executive Council to furnish the House with an estimate of the expenses of the current year, and report the same to the House, together with some mode of satisfying the expectations of the officers and Soldiers, still remaining in the Pennsylvania Line aforesaid.

Also to make enquiry into the causes of the late discontents that prevailed therein, and to obtain from the Supreme Executive Council all necessary papers on this Subject.

Extract from the minutes,
SAML. STERETT, Clerk.*

Pres. Reed to Sam. Rea, 1781.

Sir,

Your Letter of the 1st Inst. has been received, & considered together with the Papers respecting that Business. The Council have no Doubt of your good Intentions in the whole matter, but it is our opinion, that the real Error committed was departing from the Law in not drawing Lots at first for the Rank of the officer of the Battalion; The Consent of the officers should not in this Case have over ruled the Law, & if any Officers refused to draw there is no authority in the Lieutenants to draw for the Person so refusing but it was such a Breach of the act & misbehaviour as would have been cognizable by a Court Martial who would have cashiered them & directed their Companies to make a new Choice as the same Party could not again be elected. In the present Circumstance of the Case it is our Direction that the Officers meet & draw Lots agreeable to the Act & if any refuse so to do, the Method before mentioned be pursued tho' we hope that the Gentlemen will not think themselves injured by following the Laws of the Country. In this View of the Matter no farther steps will be necessary on the Proceedings of the Court Martial of the 10 Janr. last.

I am Sir,
Your obed. Hbbl. Ser.
J. R.

Indorsed,
Feby. 15th, 1781.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 632, 635.

Pres. Reed to Wm. Bradford, Jr., 1781.

Sir,

You are desired by the Council to take the Affidavit of Abraham Kenny, respecting the Language of Col. Proctor touching the Council & the Property of Hog Island.

I am Sir,

your Obed. Hble. Serv.,

JOS. REED.

Indorsed,

Feb. 17, 1781.

Wm. Henry to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Lancaster, February 17, 1781.

Sir,

By an Act of Assembly of the 12th of March, 1778, the County Treasurers are directed to pay for Servants inlisted into any of the pennsylvania Regiments, under which Act I have paid £415 10s. State Money by Orders of the Justices, &c. I have refused to pay any further Orders of the Justices on Account of Servants, as it will take more State Money than we will receive in the Taxes—I have paid by Orders of the Treasurer and to Mr. Atlee £821,484—with £200 State Money lent Mr. Wirtz, and have in hand 250,000 Dollars Continental and pennsylvania Money and Certificates to the Amount of £186,925—which I will send to Philadelphia the first good Opportunity.

The Officers have begun to inlist here, I believe they will be successful, Each Class in this Town has enlisted a Man, except Two, which shews we are not all Tories. The Mode adopted by Council of paying the Recruits their Bounty at three different payments, however prudent it may be, I am afraid will not answer as well as to pay the whole at once, The Men are afraid they will be kept out of their Money by the Officers.

I am Sir

your most obedient and

humble Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, president of the State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Arch'd McClean to Pres. Reed, 1781.

York, February 17th, 1781.

May it please your Excellency,

After sincerely congratulating Your Excellency On Account of Our late Brilliant and important Successes in the Southern department, I have to acknowledge the Receipt of your Excellency's Letter and Orders of the 27th Ultimo, with the Papers therewith accompanied.

Had they come to Hand sooner, we should have been in somewhat more of forwardness at this Place, but the Winds being high, and the River difficult for sundry days, the Gentlemen were thereby delayed, so that I did not receive your Excellency's Orders until the Fifteenth Instant.

In the mean Time we were not altogether idle, For upon the Arrival of the News from the Southward, and which we received directly from Baltimore at an early Period, and seeing with Regret, a great Number of the discharged Soldiers of the Pennsylvania Line, in, and passing through the Town, A Number of us met and subscribed liberally for a "feu de joy" and also for a prudent Treat to the returning Soldiers and a small Fund to be paid unto and distributed amongst those whom we could engage farther into the Service, which had such Effect That before the Officers arrived with your Excellency's Letters, &c., we had upward of twenty re-inlisted in the Town, and which is considerably more than are wanted for the Classes under the late Law.

From the present appearances I hope we shall almost to a Man regain the old Soldiers, and from which I presume it needful that a farther Supply of Inlistments &c. be sent unto me by the Bearer, and your Excellency may rest assured that I will Endeavour to facilitate the Execution, and conduct the Trust committed to me with chearfulness, carefulness and Rectitude.

I have drawn the Sum mentioned in your Excellency's Order, from the Treasury, which will very well forward us, and if more shall be wanted I shall immediately make your Excellency acquainted therewith.

In the mean Time I presume some Order should be taken for the supplying the Troops with fuel for their comfortable warmth and for dressing their Food, As the Quarter Master saith he hath no Orders nor Money for that Purpose.

We have got the Officers comfortably and agreeably disposed of, some in publick and some in private houses, and in their Case, as well as the Soldiery I would presume, "That to preserve a Balance "amongst the Inhabitants of the States collectively considered and to "prevent uneasinesses," a Reasonable allowance should be made by the Legislature to the Persons upon whom they are Billeted, as well

on account of fuel if provided by them, as for House Room, Use of Furniture, Incumbrance, Trouble, &c.

This I only Suggest to your Excellency, & rest the Matter for your Consideration.

What Success the Classes through the County have met with under the Law for the finding Recruits I am not yet informed;—But as I know that the Classes are formed and made out by the Commissioners, I have good Reason to believe That the Inhabitants in general will be active and Zealous, Yet am somewhat doubtful that Uneasinesses will arise from this occasion, That the Classes in General under the Law extend their Bounty to the Sum of Fifteen Pounds, being the Amount of the fine of the delinquent Class, whereas the Bounty of the Regimental Recruit is only Nine Pounds. But when it is considered that the Re-inlisted Soldier in the Regimental Line is by your Excellency's Regulations ensured of his Arrears and depreciation being made good to him, and which those in the Classes doth not seem to be so clearly entitled to, the former will in the End be more than compensated for the Six Pounds difference of Bounty.

Before I come to a Close I would beg leave to mention to your Excellency a Matter which is carrying on here much to the Prejudice and Interest of the State, and which I conceive it to be my duty to communicate.

Which is That George Stevenson hath lately laid Claim to upward of One Hundred Acres of what is Called the Town Land, and which by the Act investing the Estate of the late Proprietaries in the Common Wealth is now become the property of the State. Thomas Armor hath lately as the Agent of George Stevenson (As I am credibly informed) laid out a Number of Lotts of the Land aforesaid, and that he is agreeing with and persuading persons to take them and become tenants to Stevenson. Those Lots are not yet all inclosed, though I believe some are, but as the Spring Season is approaching, I doubt not but they will be all inclosed and thereby Possession will be gained against the State. Stevenson founds his Claim in Right of One Michael Danner, who is yet living and near if not entirely of the Age of Ninety Years, but of sound Mind and Strong Memory, and to my Knowledge it is not yet Eight Years since Danner conveyed his Right to Stevenson;—The Town Land was Surveyed to the late Proprietaries upwards of Thirty years ago;—. And Danner disclaims and disavows that he ever intended that Right for the Town Land, but Stevenson made this Use of it.

I therefore Suggest to your Excellency whether it would not be expedient to have the Testimony of Mr. Danner taken and filed in Perpetuam Rei Memoriam Agreeable to the Constitution. Farther I have been informed and have strong Grounds to believe it to be true, That Thomas Armor still Continues his Speculation with Old Warrants, and from divers late Complaints made to me, Continues

to lay them on Unwarranted Lands in the Possession of the People and for which they compound with him.

In Respect to the Town Lands as aforesaid I farther refer your Excellency to the Bearer, Mr. Hay, who is well acquainted with the Whole Affair.

After Craving your Excellency's pardon for my Freedom and prolixity,

I rest, may it please your Excellency,
your Excellency's most obedient
humble Servant,
ARCH^d M:CLEAN.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, President of the State of Pennsylvania.

℘ Favour of Col. John Hay, Esquire.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1781.

State of Pennsylvania, In General Assembly,
Saturday, 17 Feb., 1781.

Resolved, That Mr Culbertson and Mr Duncan be a Committee to wait upon His Excellency The President & Council, and obtain from them an account of all confiscated estates, sold and appropriated or not, as requested by a Resolution of the 11th of Dec. last.

That the letter from His Excellency Joseph Reed, John Bayard and David Rittenhouse, Esq^rs, received on the 9th of Nov. last, be referred to the above mentioned Committee.

Extract from the Minutes,
SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.*

Resolved, That the Vice Presid. & D. Gardner be a Committee to meet Mr Culbertson & Mr Duncan a Committee of the House on the Message of the 17th Inst. respect^g the Confiscated Estates.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 638.

Pres. Reed to Joseph Dean, 1781.

Sir,

There are many Soldiers applying to us for Pay who say they remained in the Huts or were otherwise engaged when the others were paid. We think these Men who did not serve in the Mutiny should be particularly attended to so as not to be sufferers by their Adherence to their Duty.—But at the same Time we must guard ag^t Imposition Council therefore request that you will add this one farther Instance to the Proofs you have already given of your Readiness to serve the publick—by paying such of them as shall apply with Certificates from their Colonels of having belonged to the Regiment & who you shall find have not already been paid at Trenton or elsewhere. If you have no Money an Order shall be drawn for the Purpose.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble Ser.

J. R.

Indorsed,

February 7th, 1781. To Joseph Dean, Esquire Auditor of Accounts.

Resolutions of General Assembly, 1781.

State of Pennsylvania,
In General Assembly,

Monday, Feb. 19, 1781.

A Resolution of the Supreme Executive Council was read; purporting that Doctor Gardner, Genl Potter and Mr VanCampen were appointed a Committee* to confer with a Committee of the General Assembly respecting a valuable Island in the River Delaware, commonly called Hog Island, seized by the Agents of Confiscated estates as the property of Joseph Galloway, an attainted Traitor, and which Colonel Proctor and others are attempting to take into their possession, and requesting the House to appoint such a Committee; whereupon,

Resolved, that Mr Delany, Mr Gray and Mr Galbraith be a Committee for the purpose aforesaid.

Extract from the Minutes,

SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 681.

Pres. Reed to Agents of Confiscated Estates, 1781.

Gentlemen,

About a month ago at the Instance of the Assembly we called upon you for a Return of the confiscated Estates in your County unsold. The Assembly have since repeated their Request with an Addition calling for a general Account of all Sales which have been made so far as the same respects the Names of the Purchasers & Prices sold. We therefore request you would immediately prepare this general Account & return it to us with all Expedition.

We must also direct you to pay some Attention to Hog Island. A number of persons in & about this city have set up some pretensions & endeavoured to take forcible Possession for which they were bound over by this Board to the Court. The Atty. Genl. has been directed to attend to the Matter, but it will be necessary for you also to make it an Object of your Care, & for that Purpose lay the Matter in Behalf of the State before the Justices & Grand Jury. It is pretended that the Court can have no Cognizance of it for want of Jurisdiction, but this will not prevent an Inquiry as parties will have it in their Power to bring that Question before the Court for a legal Discussion by pleading to the Jurisdiction. It is not the Intention of this Board by any Act of theirs to deprive any Claimant of a legal Right but to compel him to a legal Inquiry, & we apprehend it would be a dangerous Precedent to the Interests & Peace of the State to permit any one or more Pretences to take violent Possession of any Property possessed by the State. It is presumed the State has Mr. Galloway's Title, which includes as well the Right to the Land as the Possession, & therefore it will be your Duty to attend to both. As the Property is valuable & the Burthens of the State very considerable we should be wanting in Duty if we did not keep a watchful eye over its Interests & preserve them as far as Justice & Equity will warrant.

I am Sir Your Obd.

J. R.

Directed,

To the Agents for Confiscated Estates, Chester County.

Indorsed,

1781, February 19th. To Thomas Levis and John Hannum, Agents for confiscated estates, Chester County.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1781.

State of Pennsylvania, In General Assembly,
Tuesday, 20 Feb. 1781.

The Committee appointed on the 17th to obtain from Council an account of all confiscated estates, sold and appropriated or not, reported sundry papers which were read and on motion recommitted.

Extract from the Minutes,

SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.

Pres. Reed to Genl. Dickerson, 1781.

Sir,

I am just informed that you have called upon Col. Bayard respecting a Transaction at Trenton amounting to this, that you wrote a Letter to Col. Chas. Stewart (then present) signifying in Substance that you would not oppose the Mutineers of Pennsylvania with the Jersey Militia while they behaved well to the Inhabitants. I have frequently mentioned this Circumstance among others to show the Improbability of engaging the Militia of that State to assist in suppressing in any other Case than plundering the Inhabitants or turning to the Enemy that Mutiny by Force. It appears quite unnecessary to trouble Col. Bayard on the subject as I am ready to avow the Conversation & give you any satisfaction which you may think necessary on the Occasion.

I think it only proper to add that Genl. Potter reported the Transaction to me at the Time, & has this Morning again repeated it with the addition that he requested you to add some Sentiments of Disapprobation of the Mutiny, & that the Rejection of reasonable Proposals might be added to the other Reasons for turning out the Militia of New Jersey.

I am Sir,

Your Obed. Hble serv.

Indorsed,

1781, February 20th. To General Dickerson of New Jersey.

Resolutions of Congress, 1781.

In Congress, Feb'y 20th, 1781.

Resolved,

That the Southern Army be composed of all the regular Troops from Pennsylvania to Georgia inclusive except Moylan's Dragoons and those on Command on the Western frontiers, and that the Commander in Chief be and hereby is directed to order the Troops of the Pennsylvania Line, except as above, to join the army in Virginia by Detachments as they may be in Readiness to march.

That the Deputy Qr. Master in Pennsylvania be and he is hereby directed to put the Waggons belonging to the Pennsylva. Line in order for Service immediately.

That the several States southward of Pennsylvania be and they are hereby required to furnish their respective Quotas of Supplies to the Southern Army timely & regularly.

That the States afores^d & the State of Pennsylvania be and they are hereby required to compleat their respective Quotas of troops and forward them to Join the Southern Army without Loss of time.

Extract from the Minutes,

GEO. BOND, Dep'y Sec'y.

Pres. Reed to Committee of Assembly, 1781.

Gentlemen:

Herewith we send you the Papers* respecting the Mutiny of the Pennsylvania Line. We are very sensible it was one of those delicate & critical Situations in which no Course could be taken which would not be subject to the Reflections of those who reason from their Wishes or Prejudices, rather than the real State of the Facts. The Suppression of the Mutiny by Force, was not practicable had it been expedient or decent to oppose Force to alledged Grievances unknown & unheard; & especially when that Opposition must have ended in shedding the Blood of our Fellow Subjects. We state as Facts, that the Jersey Militia were averse to opposing the Mutineers, except in Case of plundering the Country, or going to the Enemy—that there was no other Force to be had, except from Pennsylv^a—& that the Militia of this City were disinclined to the Service, tho' they would perhaps have obeyed an Order: & even of these the Artill^y declined till they had conferred with the Mutineers. Genl. Wayne & the Officers at Princetown, were at that Time of Opinion against any Attempt by Force under these Circumstances. As to the Proposals, every one can form an Opinion, tho' none can form a just one, who

* No papers found herewith.

did not know & feel the critical Situation in which we were placed—They were shown to the Officers present, who made no Objection, but suggested some small Alterations, which were made. Gen. Wayne did intend the renewal of his Propositions dated the 2d Jany; but we did not think it prudent or politick to offer Proposals which had been rejected, & which were framed with an intentional Obscurity as to the Terms of Inlistment. Our Idea being, that plainness & Simplicity was the best Line with Men of their Cast, & perhaps with all others. In the Judgment to be formed of this Business, it is to be wish'd that it might be taken into Contemplation what would have been the Consequences of an unsuccessful Attempt to use Force, or a Desertion to the Enemy; and even what Effects the spilling of Blood between the Militia & the Continentals would have had in their future Service together, as well as in Europe, tho' Success had attended it. The best Judgment of such Transactions is generally had at the Time before the Opinions of Men are influenced by personal Motives, or Prejudices of a general or Special Nature; this Judgment, we apprehend, was fully with us, including that of the Committee of Congress, who were constantly informed of every Proceeding; as we doubt not that your Committee, as well as every candid Man, will be on a perfect Acquaintance with the Subject.

The Papers go no farther than the Appointment of the Commissioners—The Confidence reposed in their Judgment & Prudence, made it unnecessary for the Committee of Congress, or of Council, farther to interfere. But Gen. Potter will give any Satisfaction on this Subject, that may be requested—The Committee will oblige us by perusing the Papers & returning them as soon as convenient.

Indorsed,

Feb. 22, 1781.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1781.

State of Pennsylvania, In General Assembly.

Friday, 23d Feb., 1781.

The Report of the Committee appointed to confer with Council on the defence of the Frontiers, was read the second time; and after some debate, it was

Resolved, That the defence of the Frontiers aforesaid be wholly submitted to His Excellency The President in Council.

Extract from the Minutes,

SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 638.

Board of War to Pres. Reed, 1781.

War Office, Feb'y 23, 1781.

Sir,

The Board have been honoured with your Letter of this Day on the Subject of the Seven Months' Levies. These Soldiers have been daily importuning us for their Pay, which we had neither Funds nor Orders to enable us to give them. We, from Experience, know that they are extremely clamorous, & wish that it were in our Power to satisfy them, as it is a Debt certainly due them from the United States. We have been informed that the Eastern States have settled with their Men under like Circumstances, & charged the United States with the Amount. To ratify this Proceeding, & to enable other States, if they were so inclined, to do the like, we reported to Congress a Recommendation to the States who had sent into the Field Men under this Description, to settle with them at the Expence of the United States. This Report is not yet passed upon by Congress. It is totally out of our Power to afford them any Relief; & we can only lament the Situation of the Matter, especially as it is of Prejudice to the recruiting Service; yet these men have less Reason to complain than the old Soldiers, who are equally destitute of Pay, & have not received such recent Bounties. The Board are not informed of any Prospect of paying these Levies of the old Soldiers speedily. We suppose their Pay to the first Day of August last ought to be given them in the old Money; & after that Period, in Bills of the new Emissions, as this is agreeable to the Resolve of Congress for the Pay of the Army in general.

We have the Honour to be,

with great Respect & Esteem,

your very obed. Servts.

RICHARD PETERS,

By order of the Board.

His Excellency President Reed.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1781.

State of Pennsylvania, In General Assembly.

Saturday, Feb. 24th, 1781.

Resolved, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon His Excellency the President & Council and obtain from them an account of all provisions purchased by this State in consequence of an act intitled "an act for procuring a supply of provisions, & other necessaries for the use of the army" passed the 23d march 1780, and the act of Congress of the 4th, Nov. last; what part thereof has

been delivered, and what still remains in the magazines of this State, and report the same to the House.

Ordered, that Mr. Wynkoop, & Mr. Montgomery be a Committee for the purpose aforesaid.

Extract from the minutes,

SAMUEL STERETT Clerk.*

Rd. Smith to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Dear Sir,

Having not the least acquaintance with Mr. Reed, I hope the sending of this Letter may be no offence; I'm at present uneasy, understanding, that a Gentleman in Lancaster County known by the Name of Joseph Miller Esqr. Intends to get Mr. Reed to break or take my Commission which I have the Honour to hold (viz.) (that of a Magestrate,) for no other reason then a Methodist preached at my House one Evening, and two other times I went to hear them meaning no harm. But Squire Miller allows the Methodists to be Torify'd. Having heard that such people as the Methodists preached in the city of Philadelphia without any opposition, and being well informed by a Rev. Clergyman, that they had don a great deal of good among many wicked People, and having recourse to our Bill of Rights Tolorating a liberty of Conscience as was allways heretofore obtained in Sd. state of pennsylvania I referd Squire Miller to the Bill of Rights, though he says it was Benjn. Franklin and two or three other Deists that obtained that liberty, in spite of Sd. Miller and some others of the Convention, I told the Squire it was a liberty I thought proceeded from a Christian love; by this shall all men know that ye are my Desiples if ye love one another. Squire Miller has sent all the Methodist preachers that he can catch to Lancaster Goal; whether or not them people deserves such treatment God only knows. it is reported by the society that Squire Miller adhers to (Called Soceadears) that the Methodists has been recruiting Men for the British Service if that is realy so, I shall not Justify any People of that Stamp, for my own part (besides many others) thought them able preachers; and seed not the least sign of Recruiting Men for the British Service, only Recruiting Volunteers for the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, was their devouted study, & care to my view. Dear Sir, I shall conclude with the words of ye great Apostle Paule 25, C. Acts, 16, v. To whom I answered it is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any Man to die; before that he which is accused, have the accuser face to face. Self praise is no Commondation, but as for whigasm I am now what I ever was since this present Contest Commenced, I have march'd out before and since the Law obliged; and on every Call

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 638.

I either went or sent, I make no doubt Sir, but it may be told you that I'm Toryfy'd, but it is very likely them or theirs that utters such News if any such be laid to my Charge—lived in Philadelphia that Campaign and not a man belonging to his Company at Trinton the day of the Canonade where I myself was present and in sd. Company a man killed and the hand shot off one other Man, this is the solid truth can be proven by many People

I am thy assured Friend,

R. SMITH.

Chester County, Oxford Township, Feby. 24, 1781.

N. B. Sir, be plais'd to remember my love to Mr. Thos. McKain Esqr. and I shall ever be obledged.

R. S.

Directed,

For Joseph Reed Esq. President Philadelphia.
℞ favour Wm Bradfourd Esqr.

PRES. REED TO COL. RICHD. BUTLER, 1781.

Sir,

Council would gladly comply with any Request from you not inconsistent with General Rules, but your own Knowledge & Experience will suggest the Uneasiness which partial Issues make in armies,—at the Desire of the Officers two Years ago the Council made a Rule against Issues unless general, & we have found that it has been generally acceptable. We cannot supply the other Regiments in the same Manner, & they will think it hard to see a Preference where all are equally deserving. We are taking measures to procure a general Supply, in which a due Consideration will be paid to your Regiment. We apprehend your Exertions with the Assembly to furnish us with the Means of procuring supplies would be of Service, & there is no Duty we will perform more cheerfully than that of expending the money provided for the accomodation of the Troops.

I am Sir,
with much Esteem,
Your obed. & very Hbbl. Serv.

Indorsed,—Feby. 24, 1781.

Adam Witman to Council, 1781.

Read^e, 24th Feb^y, 1781.

Gentlemen of the Council,

I am to inform your Honors that I have Duly received the Printed Papers respecting the Classing of the Inhabitants of Berks County. The Commissioners and Township assessors have Accordingly, on the 22nd ult. met, And Classed the whole and notified Each Class, of whom some Few have Inlisted Recruits, Some are Paying their Fines in the Treasury, Others Collect what they can Get; But are at a stand how to get the whole as there are Disafected amongst others, some Clases are Intirely so, who will not move at all in the affair. Now I Beg we may be Instructed how to Proceed ginst those Delinquents. The Men to whom we Directed the Class Lists tel us the have not authority to Inforce Payment, wether it must be by a Seperate warrent from the Commissioners and to whom the same may be Derected, and what Penalty if any should refuse to Serve.

Further if the Township assessors who attended, are to be Paid and how much ℔ Day. Also if those to whom the Class Lists are Derected, are to be allowed any Pay if they Collect Part or the whole Fine, and how much or whether those who shall be made Collectors Hereafter to Inforce Payment shall be alowed Commissions.

Further Beg Leave to trouble your Honors a second time respecting the Conduct of Henry Haffa Esqr, our High Sheriff, the same Sum mentioned in ours of the 5th ult. to you is Still unsettled to wit, £2200 Exclusive of what we mentioned then Paid since writing &c., if the Sum in Ours to you above mentioned Doth not appear to be that Sum, its wrong and must be a mistake of our Clark who Drew the Lett^r its Perticularly Thus a Ball.

On sundry Executions since april,	£450
One Exe^n Since July, On a refusing Collector,	1000
One Do. Do. Do. Do.	750
	£2200

The Com^rs in theirs above mentioned Desired Derections to themselves & sheriff which was In part Omitted, the Sheriff got some Lines, as I am Informed But Doth not understand or regard whats been Said.

If the Com^rs are not Suported, they Cannot Proceed as they in Duty are Bound to Do and by Irregular Performance of Currupt officers a whole County is liable of Loosing its Credit & good name.

Another Evil is attending us respecting our State County Treasurer ——, a Justice of the Peace in Reading is Drunk almost Day

and night, I would refer your Honours to make some Inquiry of his Conduct, with Thomas Mifflin, John Patton, Mark Bird, Balser Gehr, Jos. Hiester, Esquires, or some of them who know him tolerable well, and are now with you, we cannot get him to settle his acc^ts nor Deliver to the Present Treasurer any Book or Paper notwithstanding repeatedly requested Both verbal and In writing. I Further Beg to be Informed if the Law* which Formerly Impowered Commissioners to Fine treassurers One Hundred Pounds on their Refusing to Deliver to their Successors in office their Book and all Papers whole Intire and undefaced, is now in force.

I am with the greatest Esteem
your obedient and Hum^le Servt
ADAM WITMAN.

N. B. Mean officers Hurt the State Exceedingly, ought to be removed without Delay and Compelled to make good the Depreciation

Directed,

To James Read, Esquire, Phil^a. Or in his absence to the President or Either of the Members of the Hon'ble Council.

* See the Laws of Pennyl^a, 1st Vol., Page 106.

Col. Danl. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Fort Pitt, Feb'y 25th, 1781.

Dear Sir,

I have just received instructions from his Excellency the Commander in chief directing me to detach all the field pieces Howitzers & train also a part of my small force under Col^o Clark, who I am told is to drive all before him, by a supposed unbounded influence he has amongst the Inhabitants of the Western Country. I sincerely wish his Excellencies expectations may be fully answered. But it may be necessary to inform you in Confidence, that I can afford very little protection to these Settlements, the Maryland Corps being ordered to Richmond in Virg^a my force will not exceed 200 Men many of which, were Soldiers plenty, I would not wish to retain.

It appears that Col^o Clark* is to proceed with the Artillery to the falls of Ohio from thence to Wabash, from whence it cannot be expected the pieces & ordnance should ever return, but they may serve to defend the Virg^a Settlements thereabouts.

It has been reported that our Assembly have passed an Act for raising a number of Men to protect our frontier Settlements I hope it may be so, for the Indians have begun their depredations by killing a man on the waters of Ten Mile.

It would be a satisfaction to me to be informed whether the Troops

* See page 537.

to be raised by the act of assembly are to be under the command of the regular commanding Officer or not.

My force being too much reduced to admit my undertaking any offensive measures I shall probably, obtain leave to wait upon your Excellency at Philadelphia where for several reasons I have for some time past wished to be, and as much as may be promote the well-fare of this new Country.

I have the Honor to be

with the sincerest attachment

& respect your Excellencies

most obedt & Hble Servt,

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

P. S. I hope no time will be lost in determining the Boundary line for untill then the Inhabitants will be in confusion and I cannot call them out in case of Invasion.

Directed,

His Excellency Jos. Reed, Esqr.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Philadelphia, February 26, 1781.

Sir,

Your Excellency will receive enclosed a resolution of Congress of the 20th Instant,* relative to the Recruiting & Destination of the Troops that are ordered to compose the southern Army, including the Pennsylvania Line, except such as are on Command on the western Frontier.

This resolution hath been accidentally mislaid in the Secretary's Office several Days, which hath occasioned a Delay in forwarding the same to your Excellency. It is hoped this Delay will not prove injurious.

I have the honor to be

with the highest respect

your Excellency's most obedient

& most humble Servant,

SAM. HUNTINGTON, Presid.

Directed,

His Excelly President Reed.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 678.

Pres. Reed to Delegates in Congress, 1781.

Gentlemen,

Being just informed that it is in Contemplation to remove the Convention Prisoners into this State we think it our Duty to observe that from past Experience great Inconveniencies have ensued to the State from mixing them with our Inhabitants. You must be sensible that there is a very great Proportion of disaffected People already among us & we may justly apprehend that their Number will (as it has allways done) greatly increase by an Intercourse with the Prisoners. We therefore most earnestly request you to use your utmost Exertions that they may proceed to some other State where this contagious Influence will be less dangerous. If the publick Necessities will not admit a full Compliance with our request we hope the Germans may be sent elsewhere. It is difficult to describe the bad Effects which have proceeded from suffering the Prisoners of that Nation to mix with their Countrymen—every Species of Falsehood & Misrepresentation is practised upon these industrious but uninformed People by the German Officers & with a Success which is truly surprizing as they have by such Acts detached many well affected Characters & cool'd the zeal of some of our best Counties in the publick Cause. The Language gives them the most favorable Opportunities to practise upon their Countrymen & they are indefatigable in making use of them. Whatever therefore may be the Determination of Congress with Respect to British Prisoners we hope a particular Attention will be paid to the Circumstances of this State as to the Germans.

I have the Honour to be
with much Regard, &c.

Indorsed,—Feb'y 26, 1781.

Pres. Reed to Archibald McClean, 1781.

Sir,

Your Favour of the 17th Inst.* has been duly received & communicated to the Council. We are obliged to you & the Gentlemen of your Town for your Exertions with Respect to the new Recruits, & hope we shall soon have a respectable Line notwithstanding our late Misfortunes.

With Respect to supplying the Troops with Fuel, &c., we apprehended that as these were no Part of the Supplies demanded of this State the Qr. Master Genl. would give suitable Directions, & early wrote him to that Effect. We shall now renew our Application & hope it will be attended to with satisfaction to the Inhabitants as well as the Men.

* See page 731.

We did not expect that the usual Mode of voluntary Inlistment would be very productive of Men, but the Urgency of the Officers & Disposition of the Men occasioned our adopting it as a present Expedient—to which we may justly add that in the present State of the Treasury we should not be able to pay even the Bounty of nine Pounds to any considerable Number, which was the Reason of dividing it into Payments.

With Respect to the Lands in & about your Town it is certainly an Object of great Consequence as well to the State in General as the Inhabitants of the Town, & we would recommend to you to follow the Example of Carlisle by meeting in Committee for the Purpose of preserving the Town Lands from Encroachment untill the Assembly shall either incorporate the Town or pass some more effectual Law for the Protection of the publick Property, & some such Guard must be put upon the old Warrants, which have been & I fear are a subject of speculation in your County.

The Council have appointed you in Conjunction with the late Surveyor Genl. to run the Line between this State & Virginia & sent the appointment to the Assembly to make Provision for suitable Pay & Expences. We propose May next as the Time to begin. We hope the Appointment will be agreeable to you—we are persuaded it will be useful to the State.

I am Sir,

with much Esteem,

Your obed. Hble. Serv.

Indorsed,—1781, Feb. 24. To Arch^d McClean, Esq., York Co.

Samuel Hodgdon to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Philadelphia, 27th Feb'y, 1781.

Sir,

I am directed by the honble. Board of War to apply to your Excellency for an Order for the delivery of the two Brass twelve Pounders and their apparatus belonging to the State—you will be so obligeing as to send it by the bearer.

With due respect

I am Sir,

your most Obdt.,

SAM. HODGDON, A. C. G. M. S.

Directed,

Excellency Joseph Read, Esq., Present.

C. G. M. S. Office.

Pres. Reed to Board of War, 1781.

Gentlemen,

As we have no other Field Pieces but the 12 Pounders requested yesterday I find the taking them away will occasion much uneasiness in our Artillery Regiment of Militia. But as I am ever desirous to facilitate your Views I have sent the Order. At the same Time I must observe that it would greatly relieve me from the Discontent of the People if your Board would for the present accomodate us with 2 pair of your small Field Pieces—it will then have the Appearance of an Exchange & be rather pleasing—& whenever the 12 Pounders return a mutual Exchange will again take Place. Upon any Exigency they will be within your Reach.

Indorsed,—Feby 27, 1781.

Lt. Col. Wm. Butler to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Carlisle, Feb'y 28th, 1781.

Sir,

Since my arrival at this place I have made some observations which I think proper to communicate to your Exelency.

There is nothing doing in this County by the Classes for the recruiting Service. Nothing can be done by the Officer as in the different Counties they pay £15 Bounty.

The Treasury here has not money (I believe) principally owing to the People having it in their power to pay their Taxes in produce which is chiefly paid in Forrage, an article that this place is overstocked with. I think the price of that article ought to be Lowered.

I have called on Mr. Lyons, the Purchasing Commissioner for this County, to know his Resources in furnishing this place with provisions. He informs me that flour and Whiskey is plenty, Beef is scarce, and he has not money. Neither does he know how to provide.

The Issuing Commissary informs me there is not more than eight days Meat in Store. This matter Demands attention.

I was informed a few days agoe by some of the Officers at the Works that they apprehended some uneasiness was amongst their People. Their complaints are as that of the Pennsa. Line, and I believe they have suffered at times for Provision. I went yesterday with a number of the Citizens and Officers (at the request of the Officers at the Works) to take a view of their situation, which I did, and hope it will have a good Effect. I must say every thing seemed to be in good Order, and the different branches are carried on beyond my expectation.

I am truly sensible your Exelency and Council will pay due atten-

tion to the situation of this place, and the settling with likewise the recruiting of my Regiment. Money and clothes we are destitute of.

There is a Young Gentleman in this Town who has been well recommended to me. I therefore take the Liberty to recommend him to your Exelency for an Ensignoy in my Regiment. His Commission to bear date from the 20th of Feb'y, 1781.

I have the Honour
to be Your Exelencys
ob. Humble Servant,
WM. BUTLER, Lt. Col.
Com't 4th Penna. Reg't.

N. B. The Gentleman's name (recommended for a Commission,) is James Anderson.

Directed,

(Public Service.)

His Exeleney Joseph Reed, Esqr., President of the Executive Council State of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

PRES. REED TO COL. RICHARD BUTLER, 1781.

Sir,

Capt. Bartholemew of your Regiment has received a Recruit after being rejected by the Lieutenant as unfit for Service, having lost an Eye and being otherwise unqualified. Council request you would make Inquiry into the Matter, & if he is sent off to the Rendezvous that he may be returned for Examination.

As Mr. Bigham is in your Regiment Council depend on you to have him amenable to Justice on Account of the large Sum of Money received by him & not accounted for.—After being put under Arrest by my Desire we presumed he would not have gone away untill an Examination was had into that Matter.

I am Sir,
your most Obed. & very Hbbl. Serv.,
JOS. REED,
President.

Council Chamber, Feb. 28, 1781.

Directed,

Col. R. Butler.

Pres. Reed to Inhabitants of Bedford Co., 1781.

Gentlemen,

Mr. Canan being desirous to return before the Assembly have come to a Determination with Respect to the Frontiers, it is not in my Power to give a full Answer to your Inquiry with Respect to the Defence of the Frontiers. But for your Satisfaction have thought it necessary to acquaint you that the Council have laid a Plan for their Defence before the Assembly by which four Companies of 60 Men each are to be raised as a standing Force, & 330 Militia to be kept up for 8 Months, & so stationed as to be most useful to the Parts exposed. That an Expedition against Detroit is in Contemplation & in that Case Endeavours will be used to act offensively elsewhere. This is the proposed Plan which we have requested the Assembly to furnish us with the Means of Execution, but how far the State of the Treasury will be adequate to the End proposed cannot yet be known. Nor can we give you farther Encouragement than this Account of the State of Things, on which you will form your Determinations. It will give the Council great Satisfaction to relieve your Distresses & remove your Apprehensions, & we flatter ourselves the Time is not far distant when this will be effectually done by an honourable Issue to the War, provided proper Exertions are used on our Parts.

I am with much Regard,

Gent., your Obed. Hbbl. Serv.

Indorsed,—March 1, 1781.

Directed,—To the Inhabitants of Bedford County at and about Standing Stone.

Resolution of Congress, 1781.

In Congress, March 1st, 1781.

According to the order of the day, the honorable John Hanson and Daniel Carrol, two of the Delegates for the State of Maryland, in pursuance of the Act of the Legislature of that State, Entitled "An Act to Empower the Delegates of this State in Congress to subscribe and ratify the Articles of Confederation;" which was read in Congress the 12th of February last, and a copy thereof entered on the minutes, did, in behalf of the said State of Maryland, sign and ratify the said articles of confederation, by which act the confederation of the United States of America was compleated; each & every of the thirteen United States from New Hampshire to Georgia, both included, having adopted and confirmed, and by their Delegates in Congress ratified the same.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 619.

JOHN HART TO PRES. REED, 1781.

Newtown, March 1st, 1781.

Sir,

The Soldiers at this Post, who were attested in Philadelphia, are now demanding the second Part of their Bounty, agreeable to the Terms of their Inlistments. I cannot pay it, consistent with the Directions of Council, for want of their Inlistments, &c., original and duplicate, remaining, as I suppose, in the Hands of Mr Miller. They are much dissatisfied on this Account, and speak disrespectfully of Government, as though it had no regard to its Engagements with them. I must therefore beg, that Council will direct, that the said Inlistments, &c., be forwarded to me as early as possible, or otherwise appoint some other Mode of taking the subsequent Receipts for Bounty, than by Endorsement on the first. I should not trouble Council on this Subject, but from a Doubt whether an Application to Mr Miller, on my Part only, would avail.

I would beg Leave further to represent to the Hon'ble Council, that such seems the general Temper of the Soldiers here, that, unless their Claims, as to past Services are soon adjusted, bad Consequences may ensue. They seem jealous of the Intentions of Government respecting them—often wishing for the Auditors, but in such a Manner as indicates a Suspicion that either they will not come, or that Justice is not intended them if they do.

I am, Sir, your Excellency's and
the Council's humble Servt.,

JOHN HART.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqre, President of the State of Pennsylvania, in Council.

℘ favr Mr Martin, Commissary.

RESOLUTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 1781.

State of Pennsylvania, In General Assembly.

Thursday, March 1st, 1781.

Whereas, from the different situation of the Troops of the Pennsylvania Line, it appears to this House that the number of Auditors heretofore directed to be appointed by the Act intitled "An Act to settle & adjust the Accounts of the Troops of this State in the service of the United States, and for other purposes therein mentioned," passed on the 18th day of December, 1780, are not sufficient to expedite that business in reasonable time: Therefore

Resolved, That the Supreme Executive Council be, and they hereby are, authorized and empowered to appoint any additional number of

Auditors, above the number mentioned in the said Act, as they may judge necessary for expediting the business directed to be performed by the Auditors in the said Act mentioned; which additional Auditors shall have all the powers and authorities and similar pay, granted by the said Act to the Auditors therein mentioned.

Extract from the Minutes,

SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.*

Directed,

His Excellency, Jos. Reed, Esq., President, &c., of Penns^a.

Pres. of Congress to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Circular.

Philadelphia, March 2, 1781.

Sir,

By the Act of Congress herewith enclosed your Excellency will be informed, that the Articles of Confederation & perpetual Union between the thirteen United States are formally and finally ratified by all the States.†

We are happy to congratulate our Constituents on this important Event, desired by our Friends but dreaded by our Enemies.

I have the honor to be,

with every Sentiment of Esteem & respect,

your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant,

S: HUNTINGTON, Presid^t.

His Excellency President Reed.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1781.

State of Pennsylvania, In General Assembly,
Friday, March 2d, 1781.

Whereas this House at their former Session did Resolve that four Companies of Infantry should be raised under the direction of the President, & Council for the defence of the Frontiers of this State. And Whereas it appears by a message from the President & Council of the 27th, ult. that it has not been in their power to proceed to the raising of the said four Companies for want of a Sufficient sum of money in the State Treasury for that purpose. And Whereas by an estimate accompanying the said message the expence of raising, cloathing, paying and subsisting the said four Companies one year, will amount to £24,523 5s. Therefore.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII. pp. 645, 646.

† See page, 749.

Resolved, that the said sum of £24,523 5s. be appropriated for the aforesaid purpose out of such funds as shall be provided by this House during their present session, and applied accordingly by the Supreme Executive Council; and that the Committee of Ways and Means be directed to report to the House without delay a plan of raising a sufficient fund for the aforesaid purpose.

Extract from the minutes,

SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.*

Rev. David Jones to Council, 1781.

The honorable the Executive Council of the State of Pennsylvania &c.

Gentlemen,

It is with Reluctance that I would demand your attention to my particular Case, as I know our publick affairs are sufficient for your whole Time; but such are my Circumstances, that I must inform you that my family will be without house or home on the first Day of April next, except you can indulge me with one of the Confiscated Plantations, & if even I cannot be allowed at present, my Depreciation, as a part of the Compensation on the whole, yet that I might be permitted to purchase said Land on just & reasonable Terms, & on such Payments as I may be able to discharge. And as I was at F. Pitt when our Troops were discharged I received no money, I must beg the favor of an order for thirty Pounds, which the Chaplain of the other Brigade informs me he has received, & without which I shall not be able to pay my Tax & fit myself for another Campaign. I should be glad to speak with the honorable Council on these Subjects. With much Respect I subscribe myself,

Your most obedient,

& humble Servt,

DAVID JONES,

Chaplain 2d P. B.

Philadelphia, March 2, 1781.

Directed,

The honorable the Executive Council of the State of Pensylvania

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 645.

JOHN LACEY TO COL. LEWIS NICOLA, 1781.

Barracks, March 3rd, 1781.

Sir,

I was ordered by Council to wait on you respecting the inclosed letter from Mr. Hart*—to request of you to forward to him the Necessary papers, that he may Satisfy the Men, agreeable to his instructions; if any further instructions Should be Necessary, you will please to wait on Council next Monday Morning—when you will please to return this letter.

I am, Sir, your Most Obt. Servt.,

JOHN LACEY.

Directed,—To Colol. Nicola—Present.

RESOLUTION OF CONGRESS, 1781.

By The United States in Congress assembled.

March 3rd, 1781.

The report of the committee on the letter of 26th Feb'y from the Board of War respecting the removal of the convention prisoners was taken into consideration, and thereupon

Ordered That the convention prisoners as well in the State of Maryland as Virginia be removed, the British to York town and the Germans to Lancaster town, in the State of Pennsylvania, or such other place or places within the said State as the executive thereof shall direct, and that it be and hereby is recommended to the executive of the State of Virginia to superintend the removal, safe keeping & supply of the Germans to Nolands ferry, on Potomack river, from which place it is recommended to the executive of the State of Maryland to superintend their removal, safe keeping, and supply to the borders of that State, and to continue their guard to Lancaster, the State of Pensylvania furnishing the necessary supplies. That it be and is also recommended to the state of Maryland to provide a guard & furnish the supplies for the Convention prisoners to be removed from Fredericks Town to York Town, but the supplies after entering Pensylvania to be furnished by that State. That the Executive of the State of Pensylvania be and hereby is requested to order the supplies agreeably to the above resolutions and make the necessary preparations for the reception of the prisoners at the towns or places assigned as aforesaid, and upon their arrival at those places respectively, the Board of War take order for their future security and supply.

Extract from the minutes,

CHA. THOMSON, Sec'y.†

* See page 750.

† See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 648, and page 745 of this.

William Henry to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Lancaster, Mar. 3d, 1781.

Sir,

I think it my Duty to inform you that the Recruiting Service goes on but slowly, the Officers are very indifferent about the Matter and do not receive the Two Dollars allowed them for each Recruit, but give it to the Serjants. There is none of them have beat up in Town yet, the Reason is obvious, they want to have large Sums of Money advanced and to be allowed to account for Recruiting Expences, &c^a. I have sworn no more than 12 and for several Days not One has been brought notwithstanding the Recruiting for the Classes is over.

Mr. W—— has been bound over for asking a greater Sum in State Money than in Specie for an Article he offerd for Sale, & yet he is every Day crying down the State Money, saying it is good for nothing and will depreciate, &c., that the price he gives for Wheat is too little, that it will be dearer, &c., &c. Wheat is now bought from 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6. Specie ℔ Bushel, and he gives Eight Shillings, he has nearly got the Amount of the last Order for £2000. If Slough or Reigart would act in W——'s Office they could certainly serve the public much better. Some time after I wrote you, at the Request of Col° Temple, concerning the Difficulty of procuring Forage, the Forage Master of the Corps went to the most disaffected part of this County and got 22 Tuns of hay by a voluntary Subscription in Two Days & one half Riding, although a Stranger without Credit and Money, and this in the Winter. Mr. W——, who was here at Hay Making could get none, or at least said so.

Your Choice of a County Lieutenant is much approved here. I have not received One Shilling from the Sub-Lieutenants of the Militia Fines, except from Adam Orth and Mr. Kucher, & that has been paid Mr. Marsteller as pay Master of the Militia.

I am with Respect Sir,

your most obedient

hum. Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia.

℔ favour of
Mr Jos. Myers.

Lt. Col. Adam Hubley to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Lancaster, March 3d, 1781.

Sir,

Since my arrival here, a considerable number of the Pennsylª Volunteers, who were last year rais'd, to serve for seven Months, call'd on me & demanded pay for their services—they inform me they were directed to call on the Lieutenants, for that purpose.—

As I have no instructions on that head, I could not comply with their demands, but promis'd to represent their case to your Excellency, and receive your directions.—I have appeas'd them for the present—I shall wait your Excellencys advise in the matter.

I have wrote circular letters to the Sub-Lieutenants, and amongst other matters desired they would settle their accounts, agreeable to a late resolution of the Honᵉ Council, (a printed one of which I inclosed to each,) several of them have been with and informed me, they were ready for a settlement, as soon as Colo. Atlee came to this place, that without him they could do nothing.

As I am not possess'd of a single paper of any former transactions relative to the Office I now hold, it will be out of my power to do any thing with those Gentlemen—Your Excellencys advise on this head also will be highly necessary.

From the many & frequent applications I conceive it my duty to represent to your Excellency the situation of this place—The powder Magazine in which is deposited between twenty & thirty Tun of Powder, is and has been for some considerable time past without Guard.—The Malitia of this place are unarm'd, nor are there any for them in this place—so that little or nothing would be done to oppose any attempt against the magazine, or other public property.

In consideration of the singular situation of this place, application for a guard, from the Corporation was made some time since, to the Board of War—who in consequence thereof ordered Colo. Maylands Regᵗ (Station'd here) to do that duty—But the peculiar state of those Troops I fear they were not acquainted with—I am inform'd by the Commandant, they have so few men as scarcely to enable them to furnish a sufficient guard for the stables (which is absolutely necessary) and those are destitude of cloathing, and some of them sickly.

The number of disaffected (which is too notorious) in this Country, and the many strangers who daily pass thro' this place makes it absolutely necessary for the security of the publick property a guard should be ordered for that purpose.—Two Centinels will be sufficient—which will require eight men daily, including Non-Comᵈ Officers—so that twenty four men (allowing three relieves) will answer the purpose. It will be necessary for your Excellency to give some directions in this matter.

I am inform'd a number of Box's with arms are in the stores at

or near Cox's town—If your Excellency thinks proper, I will order them to this place, have them repair'd, and kept in readiness in case of Emergency.

I have the Honor to be

with great respect and esteem

your Excellency's most Obd^t & very Hum^l Servt,

AD'M HUBLEY, Jr., Lieu^t C. L^r.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esquire, Philadelphia.

Matthew McGuire to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Gentlemen,

I beg leave to acquaint you that Capt Coultman, Captain Lt Douglass and Lieut Webster—three Officers belonging to Colonel Procter's Regiment of Artilery left on command in the Jerseys, not having it in their power to apply for the Money lately allowed the Officers of the Pennsylvania Line have empowered me by a written Order to receive their respective Dues answerable to a Resolve of your Honorable Board. In consequence I have applied to the Auditors and am informed that they are not in posession of Money sufficient to answer the purpose and recommend my applying for an Order to satisfy the Gentlemen. Their distress for want of Money according to their representation to me is considerable, not being able to pay for Shoes, Stockings or even washing.

The Gentleman by whom they wish the Money to be sent goes off to morrow Morning—I should therefore be happy to know whether it will be in my power to serve them.

I am with the greatest Respect

Gentlemen, your most humble Serv,

MATT. McGUIRE.

Philadel^a, March 3d, 1781.

Directed,

To the Honourable Supreme Executive Council for the State of Pennsylvania.

Pres. Reed to Mons. Holker, 1781.

Market street, March 4, 1781.

Sir,

I received your note of yesterday & am sorry that I was not at Home when you did me the Favour of a Visit. The Minister during your Absence at Baltimore shewed me a Letter mentioning your

having done me the like Favour last Fall upon your return from Rhode Island, which I was not before acquainted with, or I should gladly have embraced the opp^y to mention to you some Causes of Uneasiness which had been intimated to the Minister in order that he might communicate them to the Chev. Turnay & the Minister & yourself being both together at Rhode Island you might then explain those which related to the three Vessels which arrived last summer.

The Naval Officer has frequently applied to procure some Report of those Vessels that he may comply with the Laws of the State in reporting the Proceedings of his office with Accuracy. I shall be glad you would do it now as Agent of the Marine in the best manner Circumstances will admit And I will take the first Leisure Hour to send you a note of the other particulars which in the Course of Conversation were suggested & which while unexplained leave unfavourable Impressions, But which I am perswaded every Member will be glad to have removed & our publick Business transacted together with Harmony & mutual Satisfaction.

I am Sir, with due Regard & Consideration

Your Obed. Hbbl. Servt.

Resolution of General Assembly, 1781.

State of Pennsylvania
In General Assembly.

Monday, 5 March, 1781.

Resolved, that Mr. R. Morris, Mr. Delany, Mr. Wynkoop, Mr. Allison and Mr. Montgomery be a Committee to request a conference with His Excellency The President and Council on the subject of calling the old continental money out of circulation, and ascertaining the rate of exchange between the said old money and the new Bills of credit of this State.

Extract from the minutes,

SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.*

Pres. Reed to Delegates in Congress, 1781.

Gentlemen,

The Council have received with great Regret the Resolve of Congress to station the whole of the Prisoners of war in this State. We had flattered ourselves that the Reasons given in our Letter to you of the† Inst. would have prevented this Measure, from which we fear the most serious Consequences to the Interests of America

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 648. † See pp. 745, 753.

& this State in particular. We would wish a Conference with you on this subject to-morrow morning at 10 °Clock, or any other Hour most agreeable to you.*

Indorsed,—March 5, 1781.

Pres. Reed to the General Assembly, 1781.

Sir,

Tho' the inclosed Resolution is only addressed to the Executive Authority & the Service required of an executive Nature, the increased Expence of necessary Advances that must be made by the State to support such a Number of Prisoners—together with the Influence which they will probably have upon the political principles & Conduct of a great number of our Inhabitants, have led us to communicate it to you in this rather than the usual Mode of a Message which would be entitled to a Place on your Minutes. We have already addressed the Honl. Congress thro the Delegates of the State but without Effect.—But as we foresee very great Inconveniencies & even Dangers arising we flatter ourselves that if your Hon. House view it in the same Light your Weight will be added to obviate the Difficulty.—The British Troops amount to 1188. The Germans to 1487. A militia Guard must also be raised & supported of 400. Total to be fed 3075—besides Women & Children.

I am Sir,
with much Respect
Your Obed. & Hble. Ser.

Indorsed,—March 5, 1781.

Pres. Reed to Committee of Assembly, 1781.

Gentlemen,

In Consequence of your Communication on Friday, we have made an Estimate of the Sums necessary to carry into Effect the Report made on the Representation of the General Officers so far as the same regards advances to the Officers, Gratuities to the retained men, & the remaining Payment of the Bounties, to those already enlisted & the Bounties which will probably be further required besides Cloathing for the whole. We are inclined to think that as the Troops have received no pay for 12 Months except 50s. each lately at Trenton that it will be necessary after advancing to the officers on the Depreciation Acct. to do something of the same kind for the Men or it will have the appearance of Partiality & probably revive old complaints on that score, we have therefore included the amount of two months Pay which will be much less in proportion in-

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 648.

cluding what has already been advanced. As the Committee have encouraged the Council to expect that suitable Provision will be made to answer the Expence, if the Report shall be adopted by the House we flatter ourselves that no Decision will be had which will raise Claims upon the Treasury & Expectations from the Council untill we are in a Condition to answer them. We deem it one of the greatest misfortunes, of the present Day that Promises have been made to the army which not being complied with have involved the Country in Dishonour & executive officers in great Difficulties—Very little allowance being made for Disappointments of this Nature. The Ways & Means to accomplish these Purposes, being the peculiar Province of the Representatives of the People, & each Subject being only a Part of a System of Revenue adapted to the general necessities of the whole it would be equally improper & useless for us to suggest any Thing on this Head.

I am Gent,

Your Obed. Hble. Serv.

J. R.

To Messr Morris & others a Committee of the House of Assy.
Indorsed,—March 6th, 1781.

ESTIMATE REFERRED TO, 1781.

234 officers including Lee's & Hazens belonging to this state.	11,700.
Gratuity of £9 each to 800 Retained at the settlement of the Line.	7,200.
400 inlisted who have already recd. one third of their Bounty & further intitled to £6 each.	2,400.
300 by Computation who may be recruited by the officers in the County @£9 each.	2,700.

Cloathing for the retained men the reinlisted, & Recruits as before enumerated amounting to 1500 men, each soldier to be provided with

A Hat,		12	6
A Coat,	£6		
2 Linnen Waistcoats,	2		
2 p. Linnen Overalls,	1	5	
1 p. Shoes,	1		
Stock,		5	
Blanket,	2	5	
	12	7	6
1 Shirt,	1		
2 p. Socks,		10	
	13	17	6

1,500 computing at £14 each, . . . 21,000

This Sum is supposed to be of immediate necessity to comply with the Report proposed.

Cloathing which will be necessary for the Men provided by the Classes computing them at 1000 £14000.

Pres. Reed to Wm. Bradford Jr. Esq. Atty. Genl. 1781.

Sir,

Abraham Kintsing having informed a Member of this Board that Col. Proctor one of the Claimants of the Hog Island has renewed the attempt to take Possession of that Island, & used much threatening Language on the Occasion, the Council request you to examine him with Respect to Proctor's Conduct since the Court at Chester, Kintsing also mentioned the Name of one Gray who heard Proctor use very extraordinary Language on this Occasion which may be proper also to be enquired into. We have wrote to the agents of confiscated Estates in Chester County with Respect to their supporting the Possession of the State, & hope you will give them needful assistance & advice.

I am Sir,

Your obed. & Hble. servt.

P. S. After Examination you will please to apply to the Chief Justice that proper Steps may be taken with Colonel Proctor if the Testimony will warrant it.*

Indorsed,

March 6th, 1781.

Pres. Reed to Agents of forfeited Estates, 1781.

March 6, 1781.

Gentlemen:

The repeated Attempts to divest the State of the Possession of Hog Island, tends so immediately, not only to injure the Commonwealth in Matters of Property, but to enfeeble & degrade its civil Government, that Council think it necessary to request your particular Attention to the Matter, & by all legal & proper Methods, prevent any Encroachment thereon, using Force, if necessary, where allowed by Law. The Att^y Genl will give you all needful Advice & Assistance. Extra Expences on this Occasion will be allowed you, & you may depend on the Support of the Board in the Discharge of your Duty.

I am, Gent., Your Obed. Hble. Serv.*

Indorsed,—March 6, 1781.

Directed,

To the Agents for forfeited Estates, Chester County.

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 661, and 730 of this.

Wm. Henry to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Lancaster, Mar. 7, 1781.

Sir,

I was present at the Examination of one of the Light Dragoons who overheard some of the British prisoners, who had some Conversation concerning the Magazines at this place, and they agreed that it might be blown up with Ease. I am of their Opinion, and wish a Guard could be kept here, as there are a Number of disaffected People in this Town; and a great Number of the prisoners will be sent to the Barracks, as they have a putrid Fever amongst them in the Jail; the Barracks are near the Magazine. Could not Colo. Hubley be ordered to keep a Company of Militia on Duty for that purpose? the Amunition is by no means safe, and I understand the Quantity is considerable.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient & hum. Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY.

P. S.—I took the Liberty last Week of giving some Information concerning Mr W—, which I hope will not turn out to my Disadvantage.

Directed,

His Excellency Joseph Reed, Esqr, President of the Supreme Executive Council, Philadelphia.

Resolution of Assembly, 1781.

State of Pennsylvania.

In General Assembly, Thursday, 8 March, 1781.

Whereas it is judged expedient at this time to grant to every non-commissioned officer and Soldier, who has been retained and still continues in the Pennsylvania Line, a Gratuity over and above the pay and other allowances heretofore made to the said Line; Therefore

Resolved, that the Supreme Executive Council be authorised and directed to order the sum of nine pounds, State Money, to be paid as a Gratuity to every such non-commissioned Officer and Soldier of the said Line, who was inlisted prior to the year 1780 to serve during the War.

Extract from the Minutes,

SAMUEL STERETT, Clerk.*

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., p. 652, 655.

AUDITORS TO COUNCIL, 1781.

Philada., March 8th, 1781.

Gentlemen,

We would wish to have the sense of your Honorable Board on the following queries previous to our setting out that we may govern ourselves accordingly.

We have the Honour to be
with Due respect Gentlemen,
Your most Obed^t Humble servants,

JAS. STEVENSON,
JNO. NICHOLSON, } Auditors.*

The Honble. Supreme Executive Council.

1st. There are several Establishments for the pay of the army,—on which of these are we to Calculate. Vide resolution of Congress Octr 7th, 1776, May 27th, 1778, &c^a.

2nd. The words of the Act are "To settle the *depreciation* of the *pay-accounts* of all, &c^a, to the 1st August, 1780." We understand from the Auditors of the main army that the Line in general have not received their nominal pay later than to the 1st April last, (some regiments not so far.) Are we not to credit the Troops with their *pay-accounts* from that time as well as the *depreciation* thereon that is, make a final and conclusive settlement as far as to the 1st August aforesaid; or are we to leave their nominal pay in that intermediate time to be settled and paid by the Officers of Congress hereafter.

3d. Whether those who were in the service at the time the Law was passed are the only persons entitled to the priveleges therein mentioned (except those provided for by section 7th). If there are others who they are. Or whether all who have been in the line at any time between the 1st Jan'y 1777, and the 1st August, 1780, and received nominal pay are intitled to the deficiency of that pay by the depreciation of the money. Again whether the different situation of the army at present excludes any who were in the service at the time the law was enacted.

4th. Whether any others than the "*widows* and *children*" by themselves or their order, claiming the benefits of section 7th are intitled to receive Certificates.

5th. Whether the augmentation of the Subsistance of the Officers

* See Col. Rec., Vol. XII., pp. 646, 649.

of the Line from time to time by Congress, Vide resolutions of the and that allowing 10 dollars ℔ month subsistance to the private, are to be deducted from the balances due to them for their pay. And whether the subsistance and rations is not to be considered as distinct and separate from our business. (If so there will be something yet wanting to a Complete & final settlement to the 1st August mentioned.) If we are to consider the settling their rations as part of our business, at what rate ℔ ration are those retained to be paid for?

6th. There will probably be difficulties in Obtaining the pay & Muster Rolls of the Regiments. They are lodged with the auditors of the main army by the Regimental Pay Masters on their Settlements with them. These are Voluminous. Some of the first pay and muster rolls of the army are lodged at the War Office (at least duplicates thereof) which have never been settled by the Auditors. Another part, viz, from about December, 1777, unto the time (or nearly the time) to which the Regimental Pay masters have settled, are lodged at the Treasury Office. If these Muster & pay rolls are not produced what are we to have as a voucher that the pay of the Claimant really ought to commence at the time from which he charges.

7th. The accounts of the Department of the Commissary Gen[l] of Prisoners are not rendered later than since which monies may have been advanced to Officers of which we have no account. In this case is not an Oath to the sums received sufficient?

8th. There are frequent Applications made in town by retiring Officers and others to have their accounts settled here. Their paymaster they say is on the spot, and that we can *here* have any information or vouchers necessary, which is all they can produce, should they be necessitated to go to the places of rendezvous of their respective Regiments which they represent, both as inconvenient and expensive, if it could be dispensed with. Can they be accomodated with a settlement before we set out?

9th. If the business should not be compleated at the respective posts within the time published how are we to proceed. Will not our attendance at the next post be requisite agreeable to the day fixed.

10th. We apprehend it will be necessary and proper to keep the Accounts Regimentally, and that an entry must be made of every certificate issued, numbered to Correspond with the number on the Certificate expressing (in Columns) the name of the person to whom the Certificate was given, his rank Company and any other necessary remarks, and that a distinct account be opened of all monies credited by the troops on settlement, which they may have received in advance from this State, and the persons by whom credited respectively.

11th. Whether the Officers or privates can have their accounts settled at any other place than their regimental rendezvous. We know there are Officers of the 3d Regiment stationed at Reading, while the Regiment is at Easton. Doubtless there are similar cases which would otherwise Obstruct a settlement.

12th Regimental paymasters have been appointed to act as Clothiers, in consequence of which they have been allowed Extra-pay. This business did not commence untill a considerable time after the Commencement of depreciation by the Scale provided. Must that Extra pay be reduced by the scale aforesaid?

13th. The pay of Regimental Surgeons & Mates was augmented on the 8th April 1777, the pay of the former from 40 to 60 dollars that of the latter from 33⅓ to 40 doll^rs ⅌ Mo. this we believe is not singular; the pay of other Officers has been augmented also, at *different* times both before and after. How are we to act in such cases.

14th. Whether the *State Stores* (as they are called) which has been rec^d by the Officers from this State at nominal instead of real specie value, are to be charged to them on settlement.

15th. In our instructions from Council of the 6th Ins^t, we are directed "to enquire of the Pay master General of the United States "what sums have been advanced from time to time between the "1st Day of Jany 1777, and 1st Day of Aug. 1780 for the use of "the Penn^a Line &c^a." Are we to charge the Officers with the sums which they may have received on account of their pay, subsequent to the sd. 1st August, 1780? If so, a return of all advances to the present time will be necessary.

Sec'ry Matlack to Pres. Reed, 1781.

In Council,
Philada., March 10, 1781.

Gent.,

The Queries proposed by you have been laid before the President & Council & they have thought proper to give the following answers, viz.:

Answers to Queries put by the Auditors of Accounts.

1st. You are to calculate the pay upon the several establishments so long as they were in force and until they were altered by the subsequent ones.

2nd. The depreciation only is the subject of the Auditor's business, and the pay is not to be credited.

3rd and 4th ans^d by Att^y Genl.

5th. The second section of the law confines the settlement to *the pay only*, & therefore the subsistence is not to be taken into consideration.

6th. The muster rolls are not necessary—the settlement must be founded on the pay rolls which are undoubtedly in the hands of the pay masters.

7th. The administration of an Oath in this case appears to be improper—and if the Auditor General cannot furnish the necessary information respecting the moneys advanced to the prisoners the few cases of this kind which may occur must be delayed until the facts can be ascertained.

8th. Answered by a change of circumstances.

9th. It will be requisite to continue your progress according to the public notice given.—And if any business should occur at any place which cannot be compleated within the time limited, The same is to be communicated to the President & Council for their consideration & further instruction, and this answer is to be given to all such applicants.

10th. The Council approve of the plan.

11th. This being matter of conveniency is referred to the prudence of the Auditors—recommending to them at the same time to be very cautious of encouraging any officer to follow them from one place to another so as to interfere with the duty especially assigned to the place. With regard to the soldiers they are to be settled with only at the place assigned for the regiment to which they belong—except those who are attached to the persons of officers or who may at the time be on command.

12th. Answered by resolution of Congress.

18th. The Depreciation to be calculated upon the pay as at first fixed until altered and varied from time to time as the same has been agreeably to resolves of Congress—according to the principles on which the first query is answered.

Upon your arrival at each post you will apply to the commanding officer for a return of the regiment and of the officers who have been prisoners. And you will settle with the Companies in their order beginning at the first, and with the individuals of each Comp^y as they stand in the return.

There being no actual payment made from April to August, 1780, or since, you will calculate the depreciation during that time at 64½ for one.

By order of Council,

T. M., Sec'y.

James Wharton to Secy. Matlack, 1781.

Philad^a, 9th March, 1781.

Sir,

In April, 1777, the Navy Board of this State was much in want of hemp to make rope of; they applied to me to lend them some. Agreeable to their request Mr Garwood received from me Forty Hundred & nine pounds, with their promise to deliver it to me in a short time, since which I have not received any. I should be much obliged to you to lay this before his Excellency & Councill, as I am much in want of the Hemp or the value thereof in Money. Your Compliance in this will much oblige

Sir your hbble. Servt,

JAS. WHARTON.

Directed,

Timothy Matlack, Esqr, Present.

Col. D. Brodhead to Pres. Reed, 1781.

Fort Pitt, March 10th, 1781.

Dear Sir,

Since my last I have received two Letters from the Moravian Indian Towns, which convince me that we are now to expect a general Indian war. I have inclosed copies for your perusal, and I shall be happy to see immediate measures adopted for the security of this frontier.

I have likewise received instructions from his Excellency, the Commander in Chief, to order the Maryland Corps to Richmond in Virginia, & to detach with the artillery & field pieces under Brig. Genl. Clark, a Major or Capts. Command from my small remaining number of Troops. I mention these things to show you how necessary it is to have a reinforcement sent hither.

The Lieutenant of Westmoreland has frequently been called upon for a number of the Militia, but they, except a very inconsiderable number, were not furnished. Perhaps he does not apprehend any right in me to Demand them. Should any power be wanting on my part, I beg you will authorize me to call them out, to go upon an Expedition, repel an invasion, to be stationed, or range upon the frontier, as shall be most conducive to the safety of the settlements.

Col. Powell, in the Kentuke Country writes me, that the Inhabitants there are under the most alarming apprehensions. I take the liberty to inclose an extract from his Letter, which will inform you of the fate of Col. De la Balme & his party.

Mr. Wm. Wilson has delivered twenty eight head of Cattle, and this is all we are to expect. If ample supplies are not immediately

afforded your good sense will form a right Judgment of the consequences.

If a few of the faithful Oneidas or Stockbridge Indians could be sent to this place, I conceive they might be so employed as to effect a considerable change in the Councils of the Western Indians; particularly if I could obtain a considerable number of Watch Coats & some paint, and strouding for Breach Clouts, & Leggings for my Scouts & partizans.

Genl. Clark is come over the mountain, & his Commissaries are purchasing great quantities of Flour & Indian corn, but he appears to be doubtful of carrying his grand object, and I shall not be surprized to see his Expedition fall through for it is clear to me, that wise men at a great distance, view things in the western Country very differently from those, who are more immediately acquainted with Circumstances & situations.

As little or nothing is left in my power, I hope leave of absence will be granted me for a few weeks to go down the Country especially as my chief motive is to promote the public good by every argument, I am master of.

I have wrote to the Clothier General to supply the Troops under my Command, with at least, Hunting Shirts, &c, and I hope it will now be in the power of the State to furnish the officers with an allowance of Clothing &c.

With perfect respect & esteem I have,
the Honor to be your Excellency's most obedt. servt.

DANIEL BRODHEAD.

Postscript 13th, I have this moment received a Letter from Govr. Jefferson a copy of which is likewise enclosed.

His Excellyy. Jos Reed Esqr.

Extract of Letter From Col. Leven Powell, 1781.

Herred'sburg, Jany. 21st. 1781.

Dear Sir,

Since about the middle of Decr. when one man was killed near the Falls, no mischief has been done in this Countrey by the Indians 'till a few days ago, when seven Indians & a white man, (made prisoner about four years ago) came over to the north side of Kentucky for the purpose of Horse stealing, The whiteman left them & came into a station & gave information of their design which proved too late as they had stolen & got off with about seventeen Horses, This man informs that the Shawanese are about 15 miles from the Packawee town where they mean to stay the next year & are preparing to make an early & vigorous attack on this Country in the spring & have expectation of driving the people out of it in the Course of the year in which they are to be aided by a party from Detroit. An Express arrived a few days ago from a post by

which we have accounts of an expedition from the Illinois against the Omee town, headed by a Colo. De la Balme some time early in the Fall, This Gentleman was very successful until he had set out on his return when he was overtaken about 9 miles from the town by the Indians, totally defeated with the loss of upwards of 30 killed including himself, and lost upwards of one hundred Horses richly laden with plunder, The survivors inform that the English had sent from Detroit two pieces of Cannon that were then only two days march from the Omee, intended for this Countrey that some letters were intercepted to an agent at that town, directing a large quantity of Corn to be purchased. These are Circumstances exceedingly unfavorable to the people here, & really make me tremble for their Fate.

Colo. Clark is now at Richmond & much is expected from him but the movements of our people are so slow, & our finances so low, that I wish he may be able to bring any aid in time.

Our military affairs in this Countrey are in a poor miserable shattered state, the Commissaries in Combination with some of their associates suspected by the Commander in Chief of Cheating their Countrey they in their turn abusing him for neglect of Duty or want of military knowledge, & so is the time spent here while this impending danger is hanging over their heads. At the Illenois I fear matters are still worse, it is said that Colo. Montgomery after obtaining a valuable Cargo of peltry at the expence of the State has with several other officers & men pushed off to New Orleans, where it is supposed he means to stay till a Captn. Dodge who is Agent in that Countrey from the State joins him with an other Cargoe procured in the same manner. I am sorry that I have nothing more favourable to Communicate but you bid me write & I have nothing better for you.

LEVEN POWELL.

Extract.

Gov. Jefferson of Virg. to Col. Brodhead, 1781.

Richmond, Febry. 13th, 1781.

Sir,

I have duly received your favor by Coll. Gibson, I am sorry to learn there is any scarcity of provisions in your settlements, nevertheless I must suppose it too numerous to be at any time under a difficulty to support so moderate a Garrison as yours, if the means of drawing provisions from the People are furnished you, I apprehend your wants proceed rather from deficiencies of money than of provisions in which case our purchases will scarcely effect you, as the forbearing them would not increase your Stock of money, however from what Col. Gibson tells me I have reason to hope that animal Food will in a great measure be procured on the south side

of the boundary. General Washingtons letter transmitted by you to Genr. Clark will no doubt have satisfied you how earnestly he espouses the service on which that Gentleman is ordered, & that it is his desire he should receive from you every aid of Men and necessaries which you can help him to, I rely for your Cordial execution of this desire on your Zeal for the common cause as well as your respect for the wishes of the Commander in Chief. Coll. Gibson at my request with his Regiment, is ordered by Major Genr. Baron Steuben on the same service.

I am with much respect Sir,
your most obedt. humb. servt.

Col. Henry to Mahingwegeesuch, 1781.

Salem, Feb'y 26th, 1781.

Colo. Henry to Mahingwegeesuch as follows:

Brother Mahingwegeesuch, listen to me.

I have received yours of the 4th Instant, by which I see that some misunderstanding has arose between us, which partly derived from a speech brought to me in your name, which I now find to be a speech sent from Captn Thompson.

Brother,

I am not willing that our Friendship should be broke or disturbed in the least, nor do I think that if Friendship is settled on a good Foundation, it will be easily overthrown; therefore have patience a few days longer, & I will be with you, when we will settle all these matters again.

Now, Brother,

I have some other matters to acquaint you of, which I think needs your attention more than the above mentioned. You know I told you when I came away, that I should go no further than the Brethren Towns. I have been here all this time. The Council of Coochocking have entirely stopped my ears, so that I know nothing. But, Brother, a Bird has wispered something in my ear, & this I will acquaint you of, viz: Some Days ago, a Mingoe came to Coochocking, & received a speech from the Council there, which made him go home laughing. The Speech was to this purpose, viz.: "I am your Friends, & on this side, & only wait to see what you "are about & then shall join you. There is none of us here who "thinks of being Friends to the Virginians. There is one man who "is a Friend to them, namely, Caylaylemont." Farther, Tatepawkski & Mawgruot are gone with a Speech to the Wyandotts, to make up that matter which happened last Spring, namely, when one of their men went with several of yours & took Two of their women at Sandusky prisoners.

Again, every body here now knows that the Coochocking men are

getting ready to go & fight you, & a party of Five are gone off already the Course they took was towards Wheeling. Three of these warriors are William Penn's near relations, & one a Friend to White Eyes's Cousin, & the Captain of the party is John Lewis's Brother.

Again; a party of Five, of which Mouseknife was Captain, are come from war, & have brought with them the scalps of one old man & one child. Again, I heard some days ago, that a pretty large party of Wyandotts was gone off towards Fort Pitt.

Again, I hear three parties of Wingunund's men are gone to war; likewise other small parties from the Shawnese Towns; But all warriors are ordered in in a short time; For immediately at the Change of this moon, (that is, the appearance of the moon) all warriors are to be in one Body with all the English that are at Detroit. These are first to Destroy all the Delawares that are friends to the States, & then to proceed to Beaver Creek & Fort Pitt. The latter account I communicate to you as I heard it; the former accounts you may depend on to be true.

Now, Brother, this letter I send you by Montour; as soon as I see those men here from Coochocking which I have sent for, I will set out with them for Pittsburgh.

I am your Friend & Brother,

COL^o HENRY.

COL^o BRODHEAD, Command^t.

Copy of a Letter from Rev. John Hackenwelder to Col. Brodhead, 1781.

Salem, February 26th, 1781.

Dear Sir,

I have received your kind favor of Janu'y 4th, by which I saw the small prisent from my Wife was accepted of. I have likewise received the Almanac, and We all are greatly indebted to you for your kindness; but my wife in particular, returns you thanks for what you sent to her.

In Killbuck's letter you will find the true State of the People at Coochocking, I could never learn what they were properly about, for they kipt their matters very Secret; Now it is almost publicly known they are about no good business, and have been Very busy in trying to deceive you this long time. They have, as I am informed, also told lies of Us Brethren. I must wonder at their Stupidity—But let me see; I think Killbuck acquaints you of nearly the same matter they Accused Us, as a chief Arrant, they themselves are on; therefore I apprehend they will find themselves in the Trap at last.

I, indeed, believe that the greatest part of them will be upon you in a few days. They have already been stop'd once or twice, but I daily hear they will go soon; they have ranged themselves into three

partys, and if I am right, one party is gone of already, but I hope they will receive what they deserve.

As I understand the Councellors will be hear, in a day or two, to have some letters read, brought by Saml Evans, I am determined to Unmask their faces, and declare unto them never to write a single syllable for them any more.

Since my last letter to you, I found that it was an Impossibility for Killbuck to lay hold of Bawbee, in this part of the Country; for had he offered to have touched him, he probably would have lost his life.

Killbuck & Monture are those whom Bawbee threatens to kill, on account of his being imprisoned; almost every body that comes here from Coochockung, says that he utters the most horrid threats against these two Persons; and it is apprehended, that if he cannot find an opportunity to commit his design on the former, some of his Friends will have to pay for it.

The Council of Coochockung have also been very busy, as it appears, to blacken the Character of Killbuck; this proceeds from different reasons, of which I believe one to be, that Killbuck is a friend to the States, which they themselves are not, as it really now appears, by their own Actions.

John Monture has been no further than this place, where he has had an opportunity of hearing what is passing; he will be able to give you a full account of all what is mention^d in Killbuck's letter, and more besides. I cannot think otherwise of either of these two, than that they are true to the States.

As I understand that you intend to go soon down the Country, I have wrote a letter to the Revd Mr Matthews, at Litiz, directed to Mr Wm Henry, Esqr, Lancaster, which I beg the favor of you to take to your care.

Should it be concluded on, that a body of Men should March to Coochocking, to punish those wicked people, I trust that your honor will do all that lies in your power to prevent mistlisting any body belonging to our Towns; and you may depend, Sir, that in case any of your Men should have occasion to come by any of our Towns, that they would meet with much kindness from our People.

I am, with great respect,

Dear Sir, your most obe^dt hum^e servt.,

JOHN HACKENWELDER.

P. S.—My best Compliments to all Officers & Friends.

Coll. Brodhead, Commandant.

Cap. John Irwin to Pres. Reed, 1781.

New Windsor, March 12th, 1781.

Dear Sir,

I have this day observed in a Pennsa. paper of the 7th, Inst. Publick notice given to the officers and soldiers of the Pennsa. line, to appear with stated accompts of their Depreciation at the different

times, and places mentioned in the Resolves of the Executive Council, in order to have them settled, otherwise they should be in Danger of being Excluded. And as the time alloted for the 2nd, Regiment of Infantry, (to which I belong'd untill the 1st, of January last,) is from the 12th, to the 15th, Inst, inclusive It will be impossible consistent with my duty (which is at present, that of Commissary to the Gen. and Staff of the army) to appear at Downings town (the place mentioned for settlement) within the time above mentioned, And it would be no less cruel than unjust that I should be in Danger of loosing that which has been dearly Earned, (During the course of five Campaigns,) at the expence not only of blood, but the best part of my Constitution more Espetially when publick Service prevents my attendance. There is at present in and near this place, no less than Seventy men, and about four officers of the Pensy line in the same situation with my Self—Twenty Nine or thirty of which are in the Commander in Chiefs Guard, and the remainder in the Artilery—Whose Duty intirely prevents their having an opertunity of going to Pennsa. for a Settlement—And I must Confess (if duty would not permit) that it would be a deficult matter with me, to procure money suffi cient, to Defray the necessary expence of a Journey to Philadelphia, Which need not be Wonderd at—when it is Considerd, that the Publick has not advanced a single farthing for near twelve months past—exepting partial payments. Dear Sir your mentioning to Council the necessity of Sending a Commissionor in order to Settle the Accompts of the officers and Soldiers of the line in this Quarter, Would in my Humble opinion be serving the publick, and them, as there is great Uneasiness prevails Amongst the Soldiers (particularly of the Guards) least they should loose the dear Earn'd reward of their labours. Your informing me by letter, what Council may think proper to do in this matter, will be Esteem'd as a particular favour, & I will Conduct myself accordingly.

There is no news here at present—The Genl. has not Arrived from Rhode Island—I Remain with every Centiment of Esteem, and respect,

Your most Obedient Humble Servant,

JN°. IRWIN, Capt. Pennsa. line.

Directed,

Publick Service.

Timothy Matlack, Esqr, Sec^ry to the Executive Council of Pennsa, Philadelphia.

Per Post.

Indorsed,

From John Irwin, Capt. Penns. line. Read in Council 20 March, 1781.*

T. M.

* Not noticed on the minutes.

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